

## Iran: Pilgrimage issue unresolved

AMMAN (AP) — A visiting Iranian official said Saturday that extensive negotiations by Iranian officials had failed to settle the dispute between Iran and Saudi Arabia over the number of Iranian pilgrims who should be allowed to take part in the annual pilgrimage. Mabell Issae Jassar, the cleric in charge of the Organization for the Pilgrimage and Religious Endowments, said Iran had stressed emphatically that pilgrims had the right to demonstrate during the annual pilgrimage. Jassar said that Saudi Arabia opposed the idea, according to a report from the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). The report did not name the officials involved in the mediation effort, although Pakistan is believed to have played such a role in the past. Jassar repeated the Iranian demand that the holy cities of Mecca and Medina be turned over to a council of Islamic countries to administer them. Jassar did not say whether the annual pilgrimage would go on the Hajj this year.

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## Queen honours Earth Day activists

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday held a reception to honour those who contributed in preparing for Earth Day, which Jordan marked along with the rest of the world April 22. The Queen honoured representatives of the ministries of education and higher education, agriculture, municipal and rural affairs and the environment, information and transport and telecommunication, the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Public Security Department, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, the Royal Scientific Society and several public sector institutions. The Queen chaired the meetings of the preparatory committee preceding the Earth Day celebrations and took part alongside school students in a cleanliness campaign and planting of trees.

## Arar heads for W. Germany

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Saleem Arar left Saturday for West Germany upon an invitation from the West German house of representatives and Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Arar, who is heading Jordanian parliamentary delegation, will meet several West German officials and journalists. Arar is scheduled to hold talks with the speaker of the West German house of representatives and the house's foreign affairs committee chairman. Arar will also take a short visit to East Germany where he will meet the president of the state's council and the people's assembly. Arar is accompanied in the eight-day visit by deputies Ihsan Al Sharabi, Fares Al Nabulsi, Saad Hayel Al Sour, Marwan Hmoud and Husni Al Shayab.

A well-informed Jordanian official told the Associated Press

## King, Iraqi president discuss Arab summit

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein held Saturday on topics centring on prospects to convene an extraordinary Arab summit in the Iraqi capital before the end of this month to discuss Soviet-Jewish immigration to Palestine.

The King, who is accompanied by Prime Minister Musad Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, arrived here Saturday afternoon on what the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said was a brief working visit for consultations with the Iraqi leader.

President Hussein, Vice-President Taha Mubashir, Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramudan and Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz were among the Iraqi leaders receiving the King upon his arrival.

Shortly after his arrival, the King held a brief round of talks with President Hussein, who congratulated him on the anniversary of his assumption of constitutional powers.

The project, linking existing pipelines, would cost \$5 million and would save Jordan the \$40 million a year it spends importing Iraqi oil in trucks, according to Reuters.

Jordan gets 80 per cent of its oil from Iraq and the rest from Saudi Arabia by pipe.

The call for an Arab summit was made by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to

discuss the expected mass influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Palestine, the Lebanese civil war and other issues.

Tens of thousands of Soviet Jews are expected to emigrate to the Jewish state, prompting Arab fears that many will settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and force large numbers of Palestinians to flood into Jordan.

Officials quoted by Reuters and the AP also said that the Monarch and President Hussein would also discuss a plan to pump Iraqi oil to Jordan by pipeline through Saudi Arabia.

"We hope to put the final touches to this project soon," said an official quoted by Reuters.

The King will try to narrow the gap between President Hussein and President Hafez Al Assad of Syria, who has refused to attend the summit if it is held in Baghdad, according to an Arab diplomat quoted by Reuters.

King Hussein's trip followed a fence-mending visit to Syria by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak crowning reconciliation efforts between two major states in the Arab World.

The King and the delegation accompanying him returned home late Saturday.

## Peace march organisers assail Israeli propaganda

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The organisers of an "Amman-to-Jerusalem" peace march scheduled to be held in early June Saturday blamed Israel for what they described as "hostile propaganda and misinformation over the goals and objectives of the march."

A spokesman for the organisers, who was commenting on an incident late Friday, when an unidentified man threw a molotov cocktail at the entrance of the building housing the offices of the Palestine peace march, said the organisers were "not even sure whether the attack was aimed at us since the building houses dozens of other offices."

"If indeed it was aimed at the peace march, then the only beneficiary will be Israel," the spokesman said. "It is no secret that the Israeli government has said that it would do everything in its power to foil the peace march and has ruled out allowing a parallel march of Israelis and Palestinians from Jerusalem to the River Jordan bridge," he pointed out.

"Our peace march will go

## organisers assail Israeli propaganda

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The organisers of an "Amman-to-Jerusalem" peace march scheduled to be held in early June Saturday blamed Israel for what they described as "hostile propaganda and misinformation over the goals and objectives of the peace march."

"We suspect that Israel is also behind the hostile propaganda and misinformation over the goals and objectives of the peace march," the spokesman added.

No damage was caused by Friday night's firebomb attack, which was described by police officials as "a crude attempt by someone who is not very professional."

A hitherto unknown group called Western news agencies in Amman shortly after the incident and claimed responsibility, citing dissatisfaction with the peace march, scheduled to begin June 1 and expected to be attended by dozens of international politicians and celebrities as well as Palestinian and Arab leaders. The main organiser of the event is the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

The spokesman said: "We do not believe that such an act could be carried out by anyone from Jordan since the goals and objectives of the march are loud and clear: Total solidarity with and ahead despite the Israeli plots," he added.

(Continued on page 3)

## Extremists cool to ANC-Pretoria talks

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — Parties on the extremes of South African politics reacted coolly Saturday to successively pioneering peace talks between the government and the African National Congress (ANC).

The ultra-right white supremacist Conservative Party (CP) dismissed as "pitiful talk" a commitment to ending violence announced by the government and its chief opponent following their first official encounter.

At the other end of the political spectrum, the black Pan-African Congress (PAC) reiterated its opposition to negotiating with president F.W. de Klerk.

"I don't know what made the ANC approach the government to start talks. It's their problem," said veteran PAC President Zephania Mothopeng, whose movement advocates black self-reliance and socialism in the anti-apartheid struggle.

Political analysts say both the PAC, increasingly popular among black township youths, and the CP, the main parliamentary opposition, would have to be party to any eventual political settlement if it is to have a chance of success.

The government and the ANC completed three days of preliminary talks Friday, announcing a joint effort to end the country's "climate of violence" and pledging to work towards a new constitution that would end white domination.

"Negotiations can only take

## Saudi leader in Syria

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Crown Prince Abdallah Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia arrived Saturday for talks with Syrian leaders on ending a long-running rift with Iraq to forge a new Arab unity.

He was welcomed at Damascus airport by Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi.

The Syrian capital is Prince Abdallah's first stop on a swing through key Arab capitals amid strenuous efforts by Arab states to mediate a rapprochement between Syria and Iraq to forge a new Arab unity.

Although most participants argued that the end of the cold war era provided a better opportunity for cooperation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union on

advancing the peace process, they also pointed out the increasingly inactive engagement of Washington in the process.

Participants, however, noted that the end of the cold war had had more impact on Europe in terms of disarmament while the Middle East remains "a forest of missiles."

Several academicians and scholars called for the need of incorporating the Middle East in the arms control arrangements.

Disagreements emerged between Arab participants and most of the American scholars on the U.S. role, willingness and ability to pressure Israel.

All of the American participants were professors of Harvard University who are renowned

## Crown Prince: Superpower thaw not reflected in Mideast

AMMAN (J.T.) — The new dynamic relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union has unfortunately not resulted in a viable negotiating process for a peaceful settlement of the Palestine question.

Of course, the peaceful settlement of the Palestine issue is a goal hardly limited to the two superpowers.

The countries most intimately involved claim passionately to share this goal: yet the impasse remains.

Historically, Israel's attitude toward the Palestinians has been one of denial. Since Israel refused to recognise the existence of a distinct "Palestine problem," how could it possibly accept responsibility for its resolution? Through semantic reduction, the inhabitants of the land that encompassed Israel in 1948 became "refugees": never mind that they were there to begin with.

Israel preferred to spend its time counting trees rather than accept that it was in a forest.

Israel deflected attention from critical issues by first quibbling over the number of refugees and accusing the Arabs of exaggeration, and later by rewriting historical geography. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir even said: "Palestine did not exist; therefore there were no Palestinian people; and thus, there is no problem".

But Palestine refuses to go away, so Israel has once again rewritten history as it is known: "Jordan is Palestine" proclaims. Why Jordan?

The rationale was that Jordan absorbed a high proportion of Palestini-

## Crown Prince meets U.S. delegation

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at the Royal Court Saturday with a delegation representing the U.S. National War College and discussed with them the general situation in the Middle East region. Prince Hassan also reviewed various international issues and referred in particular to the adverse effects on peace resulting from Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. He underlined the need for a just solution to the Palestine problem to ensure peace and stability in the region. Earlier, the delegation was received by Minister of Information Ibrahim Israile who briefed the visitors on the developments in Jordan at this stage with special reference to the democratisation process and the freedom being given to the media. The minister reiterated Jordan's firm stand by the Kingdom's information facilities to convey the image of their struggle to the outside world. The delegation was also received by Chief of Staff General Fahd Abu Taleb who, discussed topics of concern to the United States and Jordan and briefed the guests on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

## 1 killed, 17 injured in W. Bank and Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

— Israeli troops in the occupied territories shot dead a Palestinian and wounded at least 17 in heavy clashes throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip Saturday.

Military sources said Mohammad Sheker Al Masri, 25, of Tulkarm refugee camp in the West Bank, died at a local hospital of a bullet wound in the chest.

Tulkarm hospital officials said at least three other residents of the camp were wounded by gunfire in clashes between youths and soldiers.

In the West Bank town of Bethlehem soldiers shot Mahmoud Mohammad Al Shalan, 20, in the head during clashes at a vegetable market, Palestinian sources said.

Soldiers also shot Jamila Musa Al Shart, 60, who was at the market when violence flared. She was taken to a local hospital with a bullet wound in her abdomen.

Hospital officials said seven youths had been wounded by gunfire and six beaten.

The Gaza City, Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets and live ammunition to disperse about 100 masked youths throwing stones at military vehicles, Palestinian sources said.

Hospital officials said seven youths had been wounded by gunfire and six beaten.

The Gaza seafront and Jabalya refugee camp, scene of bloody clashes April 26, were under curfew.

After two days of clashes in the West Bank, the army clamped a curfew on Ramallah and several refugee camps near the town of Jenin.

The army lifted a curfew in Nablus, the largest city in the West Bank, and neighbouring refugee camps imposed Thursday.

Palestinian sources said the atmosphere was very tense.

Some 120,000 Arabs had been locked up in their homes so that Israeli nationalists could celebrate a religious ceremony at Joseph's Tomb, a shrine in the heart of the city.

## Seminar reviews impact of end to cold war on Mideast peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — American and Arab scholars began discussions here Saturday on the impacts of the end of the cold war era between the U.S. and the Soviet Union on peace prospects and arms control in the Middle East.

The discussions, which were part of a two-day seminar organised by the Arab Thought Forum on American policy on the Middle East, focused on the proliferation of mass destructive weapons in the region in a period characterised with arms reduction in Europe.

Although most participants argued that the end of the cold war era provided a better opportunity for cooperation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union on

advancing the peace process, they also pointed out the increasingly inactive engagement of Washington in the process.

Participants, however, noted that the end of the cold war had had more impact on Europe in terms of disarmament while the Middle East remains "a forest of missiles."

Several academicians and scholars called for the need of incorporating the Middle East in the arms control arrangements.

Disagreements emerged between Arab participants and most of the American scholars on the U.S. role, willingness and ability to pressure Israel.

All of the American participants were professors of Harvard University who are renowned

specialists on the Middle East and negotiations.

During Monday's session, five papers were presented on weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and the peace process in the region.

The papers presented were the following: The importance of giving Middle East decisionmakers a feasible proposal (Dr. Roger Fisher — Harvard); The End of the Cold War: Implications for Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking (Dr. Everett Mendelson — Harvard); Mass Destructive Weapons in the Middle East — Facts, and Prospects (Dr. Ghasan Salameh); and Towards Peace in the Middle East: A Role for Arms Control (Roy Motahedeh — Harvard).

The sources told the Jordan Times the government would charge expatriates \$10,000 for exemption from the military service.

They said the measure was expected to bring in a minimum revenue of \$60 million in foreign exchange from an estimated 20,000 to 40,000 eligible Jordanians living abroad. Some estimates put the figure of eligible expatriates as high as 100,000.

According to one official, who pointed out on condition of anonymity,

the government's amendment of Article 8 of the original conscription law was made "on economic and humanitarian grounds."

He explained that there are "thousands of Jordanians eligible for the service who cannot return to their country for fear of being drafted or tried for desertion."

He added that by charging a fee for exemptions, "the government would be creating a new source of foreign currency to support the economy, and offering options to those who want to return or continue to work."

He said the amended law would be presented to Parliament during an extraordinary session expected to begin later this month.

The official said the amendment to the conscription law could also serve as an incentive for Jordanians to seek work abroad with the option of paying the exemption fee. He said many

expatriates wanted to return to their country for fear of being drafted or tried for desertion.

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## Fadlallah wants Israel pressured to free PoWs

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual mentor of Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim militants, has said no more Western hostages will be freed unless Israel releases Arab prisoners, the Al Anwar daily reported Saturday.

"We want the states of the world to pressure Israel into releasing Arab prisoners the same way they exert pressure for the release of Western hostages," he said during Friday prayers sermon at a mosque in the south Beirut slum of Bir Al Abed.

Most of the 16 Westerners missing in Lebanon are believed to be held by Shi'ite groups in Beirut's southern shantytowns, a stronghold of the fundamentalist Hezbollah, or Party of God.

Fadlallah, Hezbollah's "spiritual guide," declared: "We don't want the human rights and freedom of anyone to be achieved at our expense." Fadlallah said in apparent rejection of the release of Western captives without reciprocal treatment from Israel.

"Either (our people) will be free or we will not respect the freedom of the world that does not respect our freedom," he added.

The conservative Al Anwar carried the full text of Fadlallah's address.

The missing Westerners comprise six Americans, four Britons, two Swiss, two West Germans, an Italian and an Irishman.

American Terry Anderson, 42, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, is the longest-held captive. He was kidnapped in Muslim west Beirut on March 16, 1985.

Hezbollah issued statement Friday blaming the United States for hindering the release of Western captives.

"The U.S. administration bears the responsibility for any complications in this issue," it said.

"The ball is now in America's court after the efforts that had been exerted by the Islamic Republic and Syria to free two Americans as a step toward re-

solving the question of all the hostages," the statement said.

Robert Polhill, 55, was freed April 22 after 39 months in captivity. Frank Reed, 57, was released eight days later after 42 months as a hostage.

Iran and Syria have called for a reciprocal goodwill gesture from the United States.

Iranian newspapers and some of the Shi'ite kidnap groups have demanded that as a precondition for further hostage releases, Israel frees some 400 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners it holds.

The hostage-holders also have demanded freedom for 15 convicted militants imprisoned in Kuwait for the bombing of the U.S. and French embassies there in December 1983.

Israel and Kuwait have refused to negotiate with terrorists and the United States has said it would not pressure them into bowing to the kidnappers' demands.

An influential Tehran newspaper said Saturday Lebanese groups were unlikely to release more hostages unless Washington helped track three Iranians missing in Lebanon and pressed Israel to free Arab prisoners.

The Tehran Times said in an editorial it was time President George Bush reciprocated the goodwill of the Muslim Lebanese group which freed two American hostages in the past two weeks.

Bush said on Thursday he would signal goodwill for Iran's help in freeing the U.S. hostages by trying to give Tehran information about the Iranians, including two diplomats, who vanished in Lebanon in 1982.

The Tehran Times, which reflects the views of Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, urged Bush to press Israel to release some 400 Arab prisoners.

"What is needed now is action not words..." the editorial said. "If words can be translated into practice, it is then and only then that the Muslims (hostage-takers) in Lebanon can be expected to continue their goodwill gestures in their turn."

Meanwhile Reed returned to the United States Friday after 42 months in captivity and rejoiced, "I am unchained and unblinded."

Reed's plane was greeted by another recently freed hostage, Robert Polhill. The two men embraced on the tarmac, and Reed whispered, "We're going to get the rest of them out, aren't we?"

"Of course it feels wonderful," Reed said in a brief statement that left many of his well-wishers in tears.

He thanked all those who worked and prayed for his release — including the Americans still held hostage — for refusing "to let me give up" in captivity.

In a brief formal statement that left his greeters shedding as many tears as the gentle raindrops which drifted from a light overcast, Reed said: "fellow Americans because of all you I'm alive."

And in a special tribute to all hostage relatives, several of whom were on hand in a customary show of unity, he declared "because of Peggy Say, Kit and Joan Sutherland, the Keenan sisters, Pat McCarthy, and many, many others, I am unchained and unblinded."

Moments after he boarded a bus which was to take him and his family to the Malcolm Grow Medical Centre at the base, the caravan was diverted down the tarmac where, to Reed's delight, he was greeted by Barbara Bush as she was about to board a flight to Kentucky.

"We're so glad you're home," Mrs. Bush said. "I know the president wishes he were here to meet you." President George Bush was in Oklahoma giving a speech on NATO and the future of Europe.

Countries will debate the challenges facing Islam in the four-day conference.

Fundamentalist political leaders Rachid Gannouchi of Tunisia and Hassan Turabi of Sudan are among those due to present papers.

Ghazali said the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel posed a serious threat to Islam.

The Jews, after having created the smaller Israel, have begun moving to create the greater Israel. Six Arab countries around Palestine will be destroyed, or their inhabitants will be reduced to refugees," he said.

Ghazali said Islam was passing through a phase of "intellectual infancy" marked by an obsession with superficial problems. Intellectuals had a special role to play because Islam's crisis was primarily one of thought, he said.

"The coming battle is not a military one... the battle now is in the fields of economy, information, education and culture."

Another prominent Egyptian, Sheikh Youssef Qaradhawi, said despite the present crises the world's one billion Muslims should look to the future with hope because of their enormous human and economic capacities.

But he described the Islamic World as backward. "Israel has manufactured a satellite that is photographing every inch of Arab soil. And many of us still wonder, is photography forbidden or permitted?"

If we do not pull our nation out of the situation it has reverted to, and arm it psychologically, intellectually, socially and economically, then we will be lost," said one of the Egyptians, Sheikh Mohammed Al Ghazali.

Islamic thinkers from 10 Arab

## Former Arab collaborators live in poverty in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — At least 250 Palestinian families who fled the occupied territories after collaborating with Israel are now living inside the Jewish state, most of them in destitution, a Tel Aviv City Council member said.

Mira Shehori, from the leftist Citizens Rights Movement, said the Palestinians were initially given housing — usually rundown flats — but most could not find work and were denied rights to basic medical care and education.

She said many had been given identity cards with coded numbers disqualifying them from social security, subsidised medical care and tax benefits available to Israelis.

"I cannot ignore the fact that there are hungry, naked children who do not get medical care and schooling. We are a humanitarian country and we must help," said Shehori, who wrote to Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat demanding action.

Shehori said she had visited seven families of former collaborators. She refused to say how many such families there were in Tel Aviv but added that she knew of 250 families that had settled in Israel.

Most were living far below the poverty line, she said. Of 80 Palestinian children in the Tel Aviv area, only 40 were registered in schools despite an Israeli law that requires 10 years of primary and secondary education.

The PRA, due to compete in the country's first free elections in June, adopted a political platform that blends economic liberalism with a modernist vision of Islam.

President Nouredine Boukrouh delivered a stinging attack on 27 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN) and urged members to prepare for possible legislative elections by year-end.

The PRA is presenting candidates in one-tenth of the country's municipalities and one-third of its provincial districts in June 12 local elections. A party spokesman said it had 17,000 members.

Controversy erupted when a group of delegates, one of whom shouted, "where is democracy?", contested the composition of a consultative council that is to select the party leadership.

Earlier, delegates from Guelma and Skikda in the east were expelled from the congress for "lack of discipline".

The economic platform is close to that of the government, calling for increased local and foreign investment and controls on state spending while maintaining benefits for the poor.

The party draws inspiration from Islam and Boukrouh proposed creation of a council (Arabic: Majlis Ittihad) to bring Algerian civil law into conformity with Islamic Law.

Eritrea rebels claim killing over 600 Ethiopian troops

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian rebels said Saturday they had killed more than 600 government troops during fighting late last month in and around the Garrison town of Adi Kayeh in Southern Eritrea.

A spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said by telephone from London that another 1,400 government troops had been taken prisoner or injured in the capture of the area in northern Ethiopia.

"All in all about 2,000 (government forces) were taken out," EPLF spokesman Yemane Gebre

## Turkish premier in Iraq for talks on Euphrates, Kurdish insurgency

BAGHDAD (AP) — Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut arrived Saturday for a three-day visit during which he will seek to settle a dispute with Iraq over the Euphrates River and seek a joint campaign against Kurdish insurgents.

He was greeted at Baghdad airport by Iraq's first deputy prime minister, Taha Yassir Ramadhan.

Akbulut, accompanied by a delegation of more than 70 businessmen, is expected to meet President Saddam Hussein and deliver a letter to him from Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

Turkish State Minister Ismail Celbi said Akbulut will propose joint projects to utilise the water in the Euphrates basin to end the dispute over the Euphrates.

The Kurdish militants, fighting for an independent homeland, are waging a guerrilla war against both governments.

Relations between Baghdad and Ankara soured in January when Turkey cut off much of the river's flow for a month while it filled up the reservoir at the giant Attaturk Dam in southeastern Anatolia province.

A 1984 security agreement was annulled last year by the Turks, who had twice launched air strikes against Kurdish bases in northern Iraq as reprisals for

guerrilla attacks.

Celbi, who was in Baghdad at the head of a Turkish delegation for preliminary meetings of the Iraq-Turkey Joint Economic and Technical Commission scheduled to start later Saturday, said the Turks will make proposals for joint utilisation of the Euphrates.

"We're ready to cooperate with our Iraqi brothers in any possible way to make use of the river and make it a bridge of peace, trust and friendship," he told the Associated Press in an interview.

Celbi expressed hope that the tenth session of the joint commission "will pave the way for improved economic cooperation and trade."

Turkish exports to Iraq boomed during the 1980-88 Gulf war with Iran, averaging around \$1 billion a year.

But Baghdad's delay in repaying its \$3 billion debt to Turkey forced Ankara to suspend credits in April 1988, slashing trade to half its wartime peak.

An estimated \$2 billion has now been repaid and it is expected to be reduced to \$419

million by the end of the year.

Celbi said he hoped the two sides will be able to solve the debt and other problems so that Ankara can increase its exports to Iraq.

Turkey complains that its imports from Iraq are causing a big deficit in the trade balance between the two countries and will suggest projects in Iraq worth \$400 million to rectify the balance between them.

The Turks also hope to sign a new debt repayment timetable and a new credit line accord to enable its businesses to export more goods to Iraq.

The Turkish government, facing severe competition in the Iraqi market, hopes to restore Iraq as its main trading partner in the Middle East.

Celbi said the Turks will propose participation in some post-war reconstruction and engineering work. Turkey's Ankara company is currently building the \$800 million Behikma Dam in northern Iraq.

Turkey is believed to be also interested in a free trade zone on the border.

## Ibn Ali mixes concessions with tight grip on power

By Jonathan Wright

Reuter

TUNIS — President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali of Tunisia, in a gesture characteristic of his 30-month reign, has offered his opponents a concession to keep alive hopes of change while simultaneously keeping a tight grip on the reins of power.

In May 53, promised in May Day speech unspecified measures to make it easier for opposition parties to break the ruling party's monopoly of seats in parliament.

He coupled it with a warning that he alone would decide the pace and course of democratic reform "unaffected by all forms of pressure of political maneuvering."

The promise was symbolic of a reform process which his supporters say is sincere but cautious and his critics dismiss as a facade to disguise a form of authoritarianism.

But Ibn Ali has also alienated the secular left, who might count among his allies. Three left-of-centre parties last month announced plans to form a broad democratic front to capture the middle-ground between the ruling party and the Islamists.

The unrecognised Islamic movement Nahdha (Renaisance), whose sympathisers won 13 per cent of the popular vote in general elections in April 1989, has emerged as the only serious challenge to Ibn Ali's government.

He based his legitimacy on promises of multiparty democracy, saying Tunisians were now mature enough to do without the paternalistic style of government which Bourguiba represented.

But his honeymoon with the country's "political class" was brief and old-style police tactics soon re-emerged as a method for dealing with politicians who refused to fit in with the government's vision of democracy mentioned above.

Disenchanted Tunisians now say the turn of events was probably inevitable, given Ibn Ali's background as a military and security man associated with Bourguiba's one-party system.

Ibn Ali himself has said he manages the country from a computer in his private office, filled with data and with the instructions he gives to his ministers and subordinates.

He seldom venture out of his presidential palace in the Tunisian capital, where he is trapped in a definite choice by the Islamists? If so, he's in trouble because the government has no clear vision of how to reconcile Islam with modernity," said one academic.

In his May Day speech Ibn Ali tried to redirect the political debate away from religion, the dominant theme back to economics, where the ruling party is on safer ground.

But some diplomats and political scientists say a head-on collision with the Islamic Movement may be inevitable.

"Is Ibn Ali trapped in a definite choice by the Islamists? If so, he's in trouble because the government has no clear vision of how to reconcile Islam with modernity," said one academic.

Al Fair Nahdha's weekly newspaper whose appearance is itself a concession to the movement's popularity, last week described the campaign as hysterical and gratuitous and called for a serious dialogue.

In the general elections of April 1989, the new system's first test in the field, the ruling party won all 141 seats in parliament. The government denied opposition allegations that there were widespread abuses.

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He seldom venture out of his presidential palace in the Tunisian capital, where he is trapped in a definite choice by the Islamists? If so, he's in trouble because the government has no clear vision of how to reconcile Islam with modernity," said one academic.

In his May Day speech Ibn Ali tried to redirect the political debate away from religion, the dominant theme back to economics, where the ruling party is on safer ground.

But some diplomats and political scientists say a head-on collision with the Islamic Movement may be inevitable.

"Is Ibn Ali trapped in a definite choice by the Islamists? If so, he's in trouble because the government has no clear vision of how to reconcile Islam with modernity," said one academic.

Al Fair Nahdha's weekly newspaper whose appearance is itself a concession to the movement's popularity, last week described the campaign as hysterical and gratuitous and called for a serious dialogue.

## Queen Noor to visit design, trade centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein will pay an informal working visit Sunday to the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, the commercial arm of the National Handicrafts Development Project.

During the visit, the Queen will be briefed on various lines of products now on display at the centre's new location. She will also discuss the activities in which the National Handicrafts Development Project, one of Noor Al Hussein Foundation's major



Queen Noor Al Hussein's handicraft sector, a press release by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation said.

## Jordan has second highest road accident casualties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 345 citizens were killed and 9,956 injured in road accidents that occurred in Jordan in 1989, and many of those injured sustained permanent disabilities, according to the Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday.

The figures were given by Brigadier Awni Mismar, director of the Drivers and Vehicles Licensing Department in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the eve of Jordan's observing world traffic day which falls Sunday.

Mismar said that despite the measures to stem the number of road accidents in Jordan, the Kingdom takes the second place in a category of nations with the highest number of road casualties.

"Those countries with less than 10 deaths from road accidents for every 10,000 vehicles are considered by standards as falling within the first category group," Mismar pointed out.

He said refrigerated trucks and all other types of lorries will be prevented from parking in residential areas because they cause a lot of noise and disturbance to the residents. "All violations will be dealt with in the strictest manner," Humud added.

The assistant PSD director for Traffic Affairs Brig. Muayyed Mubasir told Petra that ordinary cars transporting sick people to 298 than the number of acci-

schemes, is currently engaged: product development, sales, promotion and project coordination and the new training programme planned for this year.

The National Handicrafts Development Project, largely financed by the United States Agency for International Development, seeks to professionalise handicraft marketing activities and has focused to date, on textiles, weaving and embroidery, where the largest number of individuals are employed in Jordan.

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dents in 1988 with nine fewer deaths, and 482 less injuries.

Statistics on road accidents between 1985 and 1989 showed that accidents had been on the increase, with the exception of 1986 when road conditions were improved," said a paper submitted on behalf of the traffic department to the seminar.

The paper was presented by the department's Director Faith Humud who told Petra Saturday that his men had embarked on a nation-wide traffic awareness campaign to help reduce the number of road accidents and ease traffic congestion.

"Orders have been issued to traffic policemen to prevent any car from parking on the pavements, which have been built for the pedestrians, to monitor those exceeding speed on roads with radars and fine those double-parking along streets," Humud said in his statement.

He said refrigerated trucks and all other types of lorries will be prevented from parking in residential areas because they cause a lot of noise and disturbance to the residents. "All violations will be dealt with in the strictest manner," Humud added.

The assistant PSD director for Traffic Affairs Brig. Muayyed Mubasir told Petra that ordinary cars transporting sick people to 298 than the number of acci-

hospital would be given priority on the road and would be allowed the same rights given to ambulances.

Mubasir said that those who lose their driving licences can from now on apply directly for a replacement at the Licensing Department rather than go through the previous tedious routine of advertising for it in the local press and reporting to the highway patrolmen and the local police stations.

A substitute driving licence, he added, can be issued in a matter of minutes from now on.

"In addition, the department will shortly start distributing a driver's guidebook containing instructions on the use of roads and a summary of regulations and laws," Mubasir added.

Over the past years, he said, the traffic department faced a real problem in controlling road traffic and road accidents," but now we are beginning to overcome this problem and have gone a long way to achieve good results."

He said that increase in public awareness of traffic matters, the work of private and public organisations to control and stem accidents on the roads and improvement in road conditions have all contributed to the department's good results.

## Jordan moves to face water shortages

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan expects to face sharp shortages of water supply in the near future and is turning its attention to the prospects of benefiting from non-traditional water resources like recycling treated waste water to be used in farming, desalination of water and the utilisation of water to be collected from Yarmouk River in Al Wahdeh dam, according to Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary-General Mustazz Al Bilebi.

A addressing a press conference, Tal said the company made remarkable achievements in the 1980s and helped the Kingdom earn badly-needed hard currency.

The past 10 years presented the company with numerous challenges due to fluctuations in trade and maritime transport on the one hand and freight rates on the other," he said.

Tal, who was speaking at the company's tenth anniversary, announced that last year the company succeeded in launching a new maritime route in cooperation with the North Yemeni shipping company for the transportation of containers from European ports to Aqaba and Nuweiba in Shunah.

**WHO to hold 43rd meeting**

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Mohammad Addouh Al Zaben left for Geneva Saturday and said he will attend the opening of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 43rd meeting due to take place Sunday.

The meeting is to discuss the killer disease AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) and breast feeding among a wide range of topics of concern to all nations," Zaben said in a statement before departure.

During his stay in Geneva, Zaben said he would attend an extraordinary meeting of the Arab health ministers council to discuss inter-Arab cooperation in means of combating infectious diseases.

The Arab meeting in Geneva, he said, is expected to discuss the general health conditions in the occupied Arab territories and the prospect of Palestine joining the World Health Organisation's membership.

## Shipping company boosts profits

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan National Shipping Lines Company (JNSLC) last year collected JD 3,229,758 drams profit from its operations and distributed dividends at the rate of 20 per cent to the shareholders, the company Managing Director Yasser Al Tal announced here Saturday.

Addressing a press conference, Tal said the company made remarkable achievements in the 1980s and helped the Kingdom earn badly-needed hard currency.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITION

\* Art exhibition by Houria Al Iraqi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### BAZAAR

\* Charity bazaar displaying brass and woodworks, ceramics, photos and paintings depicting the Jordanian environment and Islamic and cultural books at Al 'Awda Club, Zarqa.

### LECTURE

\* Lecture, in Arabic, on "Chinese Criticism in Jordan" by Hassan Abu Ghosh at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

### ACROBATS

\* Chinese acrobats show at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

## MAP organises walk to raise funds for Palestinians

By Sama Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A few thousand people are expected to walk 23 kilometres next Friday in an effort to raise funds for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to Nadia Al Amari, secretary of the local chapter of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP).

The sponsored march, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, honorary chairman of MAP in Jordan, will start at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel at 8:30 a.m. and will end at "Khirbat Abu Jaber" near Kan Zaman, at Yadudah, where a "soul baladi" (traditional bazaar) will be set up.

This is the first official fund-raising activity for MAP since its establishment in Jordan last month.

The marchers will walk past the Third Circle to the Seventh Circle, where they will head towards the airport road to the gas station and turn off at the Abu Jaber site.

The walk will be divided in eleven two-kilometre stations, walkers will collect a new card at each station," Al Amari said.

"They can walk as much as they want, but the minimum distance is two kilometres in order to get at least the first card."

The participants must all carry the cards in order to use the facilities available, Al Amari explained, adding that free food and drinks will be provided along the route at every station. "Buses and shuttles will also be available to transport people either back to the hotel or to the soul," she said.

In addition, an ambulance will be nearby at all times in case of emergency, and police will be around to ensure safety from traffic.

"When the participants reach the destination, at approximately 11:30, a soul

designed like the bazaar of old Jerusalem will be set up where they can buy all sorts of homemade traditional Arabic foods, including pickles and cheese.

There will also be fresh vegetable stands and the people can have a light lunch, such as hamburgers, falafel and shawarma sandwiches," Al Amari said.

The soul will open free of charge to the public (walkers and non-walkers) at 11 and run until 7 p.m. that day, where Al Amari said, there will be some Jordanian TV celebrities entertaining the public.

MAP also provides medical equipment needed in the health centres, Al Amari explained.

Dr. Rafiq Husseini, director of MAP in London, told the Jordan Times during a recent visit to Jordan that medical help is now one of the most important things needed for

Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"The Israeli army now aims at seriously wounding in an attempt to handicap the Palestinians participating in the uprising. The shooting is mostly in the head and backbone so as to paralyse them; so the victims need constant treatment and therapy as a result," Hussein said.

Since MAP's establishment, as a non-political, humanitarian charity organisation in Britain after the massacres of Sabra and Shatila in Lebanon in 1982, over 50 medical projects were initiated by the organisation in all areas of the occupied territories.

Voluntary medical teams for MAP comprise orthopaedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, neurologists, emergency surgeons, specialised nurses and physiotherapists who train Palestinian medical staff in Arab hospitals and health centres there.

MAP also provides medical equipment needed in the health centres, Al Amari explained.

Those interested in participating in the fund-raising walk on Friday can contact MAP on telephone 611065 or visit the offices at the Riyad Centre at Third Circle.

## 318 families to be evicted from Lawziah district homes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 318 limited-income families are threatened with displacement in the wake of a court order asking them to evict the homes where they have been living since 1948.

A report in Al Dustour Arabic daily said the 318 poor families live in 300 homes built in Lawziah district near Ras Al Ain in the heart of Amman, but a court has ruled that the 34-dunum land on which their houses had been erected belongs to other owners who are demanding eviction.

According to the report, water and electricity supplies have been cut to these homes in accordance with a court order which is being carried out in the presence of police officers.

The residents said the land owners were demanding JD 90,000 for each dunum of land to make it impossible for the present residents to hold on to the disputed property.

The report said the verdict issued by the Amman First Instance Court was approved by the Court of Appeal and the Court of Cassation, and eviction was now inevitable unless the government

somehow else sponsor their walk or they can pay for their participation by coming to our offices and picking up sponsor forms and buying the MAP T-shirts.

Or they can show up at the Intercontinental Hotel Friday at 8 a.m. to buy their participation card and T-shirt," Al Amari told the Jordan Times.

This is the first official fund-raising activity for MAP since its establishment in Jordan last month.

The marchers will walk past the Third Circle to the Seventh Circle, where they will head towards the airport road to the gas station and turn off at the Abu Jaber site.

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## Municipal elections to be held in Zarqa

ZARQA (Petra) — Municipal elections in Zarqa will be held on May 15 and nomination of candidates for the members of the municipal council will begin on May 8, 1990, according to an official announcement here Wednesday.

The report says the building houses several stores whose owners have been occupying it for 30 years. It said the merchants and store owners had refused to receive an order from the Amman municipality to leave the premises within 48 hours to allow for municipal workers to start demolishing the building.

The report said several merchants had sent cables of protest to Prime Minister Mudar Badran, stating that the stores were the only means of livelihood for them and their families.

Parliament member Mansour Murad, who met with the merchants, voiced support for their cause and said the eviction would only increase the number of unemployed people in Jordan; he demanded that the Greater Amman Municipality offer the merchants substitute stores before demolition begins.

According to the report, water and electricity supplies have been cut to these homes in accordance with a court order which is being carried out in the presence of police officers.

The residents said the land owners were demanding JD 90,000 for each dunum of land to make it impossible for the present residents to hold on to the disputed property.

The report said the verdict issued by the Amman First Instance Court was approved by the Court of Appeal and the Court of Cassation, and eviction was now inevitable unless the government

Some would-be candidates said that they believed Zarqa lacks proper health and municipal services and wish to run for elections in order to contribute to serving their townpeople.

Another announcement said municipal elections in the nearby Ruseifa town would take place on June 7, and nomination of candidates would start May 13.

In Mafrag, it was announced Wednesday that everything was set for Thursday's municipal elections. A total of 12,226 voters are eligible to take part in the election to choose 10 people from a group of 25 candidates.

Mafrag deputy-governor Mahmoud Al Sari said voters would cast ballots at 22 voting centres and counting of votes would take place at 11 centres.

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Mafrag deputy-govern

# Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, MAY 6, 1990

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجريدة العربية المستقلة الوحيدة التي تنشر في الأردن

Al-Jordan Times

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## Re-consider school vacations

SECONDARY and elementary students have just concluded more than a two-week vacation which is just one month away from the end of the school year. Whoever thought up this long break in the scholastic year at this time of year needs his judgement be re-examined. There is no discernable justification for sacrificing moderate weather conditions in May in favour of starting the scholastic year too early in the sweltering heat of August, or end it too late in June. There was a time when school breaks in Jordan were more in tune with Jordanian weather conditions and more consistent with school breaks elsewhere in the Middle East region. This is not to mention the marked discrepancy between school and university vacations which threw a wrench into family planning for the summer.

Many educationalists have voiced concern at the 1988 abrupt changes in school vacation periods which were introduced by the previous government. It was pointed out then that Jordan ought to be prepared to play a regional educational role just like Lebanon used to do. And to perform that role, which incidentally also has an economic dimension, our policymakers need to think regionally instead of parochially. Clearly the current programme for school breaks is out of tune with regional policies and practices and as such calls for a quick rectification. This is then the right time to announce a new policy on such an important subject. In this vein it would be a good idea to canvass the opinion of teachers and students on this matter instead of leaving it up to few officials who may or may not be well versed in all the dimensions of the issue. And what better time to start this process of reviewing this subject than now and prior to the end of the school year? After two years of trial and error in this field, all concerned have now ample feedback on the 1988 decision to change school vacation times. Such findings need to be examined thoroughly and above all democratically in order to best serve Jordanian students' and their families' overall interests.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Saturday warned the public against hostile rumours being spread about by the Israeli enemy, and said that rumours can be an efficient tool in the hands of enemies serving as part of the psychological war against the Arab Nation. The paper said that unity within the Jordanian family and awareness on the part of individuals can thwart any plot in the form of rumours directed against Jordan. The present democratic atmosphere in the Kingdom and the keenness on the part of the Jordanian citizens to foil Israel's conspiracies are guarantees for the Jordanian people in the face of hostile Zionist actions, said the paper. With clear reference to Israel's latest rumour about the arrest of an army officer in Jordan for his alleged dealings with the enemy, the paper said that the army, like all other executive, legislative and judicial institutions in the Kingdom can be counted on as reliable, and a source of pride for all Arabs. The paper said that Israel and the enemies of the Arab Nation have clearly resorted the rumours as the last "arrow" with which they can attack this nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily expresses the view that the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation at large should not organise a peace march to the Jordan River bridges as professional unions are now planning to do. Tareq Masa'weh points out that Israel and the United States do not understand the language of dialogue and appeal which the Arabs have been adopting ever since they lost their Palestinian land. The writer notes that the longer the Arabs kept talking about peace and begging the United States, the European Community and others to come to their aid, the more stubborn their Israeli enemy became. Masa'weh reminds the Arabs that Israel wants all of Palestine as the land of Israel, and therefore, the Arabs should consider seeking all of Palestine for the Palestinians, and never to surrender or to resort to meek methods for regaining their rights in their homeland. He says the Arabs should not act as if Palestine is not of their concern and it is for others to save it for them, but should rather take action in practice and not in theory. He says the Arabs want to regain control of their legitimate land in the Ahwaz, Iskandaroun and Palestine; and no less than that demand should be sufficient because there is no other choice.

Al Dustour daily on Saturday commented on Israel's adamant position with regard to the construction of settlements on Arab lands in Palestine. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has just announced his intention to set up 14 new settlements on Arab lands and to seek United States' help to get millions of dollars to settle Jewish immigrants on them, the paper noted. At the same time, we hear some voices in the U.S. administration denouncing the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories, which totally contradicts what is actually happening in Palestine. The paper noted that had it not been for American constant support and help to the Israelis, they could have never pursued their settlement programmes and never declared their intention of absorbing 300,000 Jews annually in Palestine. Political circles in the United States are clearly exercising hypocrisy and underhand dealings with the Arabs at a time when the U.S. administration provides the Israelis with the means to maintain their occupation of Arab land and to settle more Jews in the occupied territory, the paper pointed out.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Exchange rate, inflation stabilised

By Dr. Fahed Fawak

UNTIL the economic crisis of 1988, Jordan used to enjoy a stable currency for many years. From 1951 to 1968 the Jordan dinar (JD) was pegged to the Sterling pound at 1 JD = 1 Sterling pound. After the 14 per cent devaluation of the Sterling in 1968, the dinar was pegged to the dollar at 1 JD = \$2.80. When the dollar was devalued in 1971 by 10 per cent, the JD maintained its value and became equal to \$3.11. And when the dollar became volatile, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) in 1974 shifted to the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) at 1 JD = SDR 2.59.

The dinar continued to be pegged to SDR's irrespective of the domestic inflation rate which was running at slightly higher rate than the weighted average of the countries where

the SDR components originated. This resulted in overvaluation of the JD, which started to accumulate over the years. By 1986 the IMF experts estimated that the dinar was around 20 per cent overvalued.

The government refused to devalue. The loss of competitiveness in the export market was compensated by generous Arab financial aid, extensive foreign borrowing and the consumption of the CBJ reserves.

Until mid 1986 the variation of the exchange value of the JD against SDR was not allowed to exceed 2.25 per cent up or down. But since the CBJ started to reduce the exchange rate of the JD at 1 per cent a month. People did not feel it because they usually think in terms of dollars and the dollar itself was depreciating. The re-

sult was higher prices for other foreign currencies especially the German mark and the Japanese yen.

The creeping devaluation was too little and too late to make the adjustment. But 1988 the confidence in the dinar was deeply shaken. People started to speculate against the JD. Capital flight became more active and the reserves of the CBJ dropped to almost zero. By October 10, 1988, CBJ closed its foreign exchange window, and floated the JD. In effect CBJ was unable to protect the old fixed exchange rate or, for that matter, any rate. The JD took a dive.

Since Aug. 6, 1989, CBJ restored control and was able to stop the JD and improve its exchange rate gradually from \$1 = JD 0.88 to \$1 = JD 0.575 by the end of Febru-

ary 1990. Since then JD stabilised.

The IMF experts believe that the current exchange rate of the JD is realistic, or even slightly undervalued, but some analysts in the country believe that CBI may not be able to protect the stability of the JD for long in an atmosphere of high domestic inflation. The current policy is that exchange rate will hold at the current rate, at least through 1991. Later on, the exchange rate has to respond to the relative inflation.

Inflation rate was high during the seventies and early eighties, when the economy was growing fast, fuelled by petro-dollar pouring on the country from oil rich Arab countries and remittances from 300,000 Jordanian expatriates working in the Gulf states.

the IMF programme and confirmed by the minister of finance. However, independent economists think that the actual inflation rate may be higher (above 15 per cent). They accept the fact that the exchange rate continued to stabilise, the inflation rate will be much lower, but they point out the extremely high rates in inflation recorded during the last three months of 1989, and did not subside in the first quarter of 1990.

It is agreed that inflation in Jordan is inspired by costs of imports (cost push). However the overall connection was that inflation follows the lead of exchange rate. Every percentage point rise in foreign exchange against the JD resulted in at least half a percentage point in the domestic level of prices.

## NATO raises the stakes in power play for Europe's future

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuter

BRUSSELS — NATO, dismissed by many as a relic of the cold war, has raised the stakes dramatically in its bid to remain a dominant force in the future of Europe.

Alliance foreign ministers agreed at a meeting May 3 to scrap controversial plans to modernise short-range nuclear missiles and artillery, took a tough line with the Soviet Union on German unification and arms control and mapped out a course to transform their organisation.

"NATO is preparing for the future...clearly, this alliance is on the move," Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told a news conference. "The alliance is taking advantage of the historic opportunity to move beyond confrontation to cooperation."

But NATO, founded in 1949 and held together through the years by massive Soviet defence spending, faces tough competition as it seeks to remain the linchpin for transatlantic ties and take a leading role in shaping Europe's future.

The 12-nation European Community (EC), gathering its forces for political and monetary union, is hoping to take on more of a role in security issues.

Then there is the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which lays out guidelines on human rights, economic issues and security for all European and North American states, except Albania.

"It is our hope and belief that these institutions can act in a

complementary, rather than competitive, way," U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said May 3.

Whether or not his hopes are fulfilled, NATO is keen to convince the peoples of its 16 nations that it is now on the political offensive and dispel the perception that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev makes the running on arms control.

Woerner accused the Soviet Union of "foot-dragging" in the Vienna CSCE talks. "We want to urge the Soviets to get on with it," he said.

Moreover, ministers agreed that there would be no CSCE summit later this year, something for which Moscow has pressed hard, unless a CFE agreement is signed.

They also mapped out a series of meetings during the course of the year that would determine the alliance's future, giving it a more political role and revising military strategies that had once seemed to be a haven for dubious business deals — allegations which it denies.

Spain's Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez complained recently that Gibraltar was a cancer on the continent and warned "there cannot be a common house with a colony in Europe."

Ceded by Spain in 1713, the rock of Gibraltar lost its military value after 1945, and Britain's decision to cut the 1,800 man garrison by 700 next year will make a big dent in the service-oriented economy.

Chief Minister Joe Bossano is aware his mandate ends in 1992, the same year Europe becomes a single market, and that he has little time to prepare it for the new competitive era.

"We have to bring Gibraltar up to the standards of the rest of Western Europe," Bossano, a former building worker with a degree in economics, said in a recent interview.

Since he was elected in a landslide victory two years ago Bossano has begun an ambitious development programme he hopes will help project Gibraltar as a trading and financial centre for Europe. His efforts have helped deposits triple since 1988.

The Socialist leader has tightened financial legislation following a scandal in Gibraltar two years ago, and is shaking up the rock's sleepy civil service by halving the highest-paid jobs and closing down departments.

Another priority, he says, will be to clean up Gibraltar's rather sordid appearance, a situation that puts off visitors and has sparked a campaign by a local heritage trust to try to improve public awareness about the environment.

Gibraltar at times resembles a bazaar, a strange polyglot mix of djellaba-clad Moroccans jostling with Jews, Spaniards and British expatriates along streets that could have been plucked from an English provincial town.

Bossano, himself of Spanish extraction, is a fierce defender of Gibraltar's status quo, and says he will not give up one inch of it despite talks between Madrid and London that began in 1985.

Britain says it will not give up the colony against the wishes of its citizens, and no local politician dares to suggest any kind of agreement with Spain.

"On the few occasions that an understanding with Spain has been suggested, public reaction has been violent," said Louis Triay, a prominent Gibraltar lawyer.

Gibraltar's associate membership of the European Community has not smoothed relations with Spain. If anything it has just made life more complicated for Brussels.

The territorial dispute held up an EC accord on liberalising air traffic for six months in 1987 as Spain did not recognise Gibraltar as a British airport. The impasse was resolved only when Britain and Spain agreed joint use of the airport.

## LETTERS

To the Editor

### Let it be

BEAR with me for a minute. Transcend all the existing norms and realities and let your creativity guide you into the innermost tantalising figments of your imagination. Picture this future delineation and give me your honest and unbiased opinion.

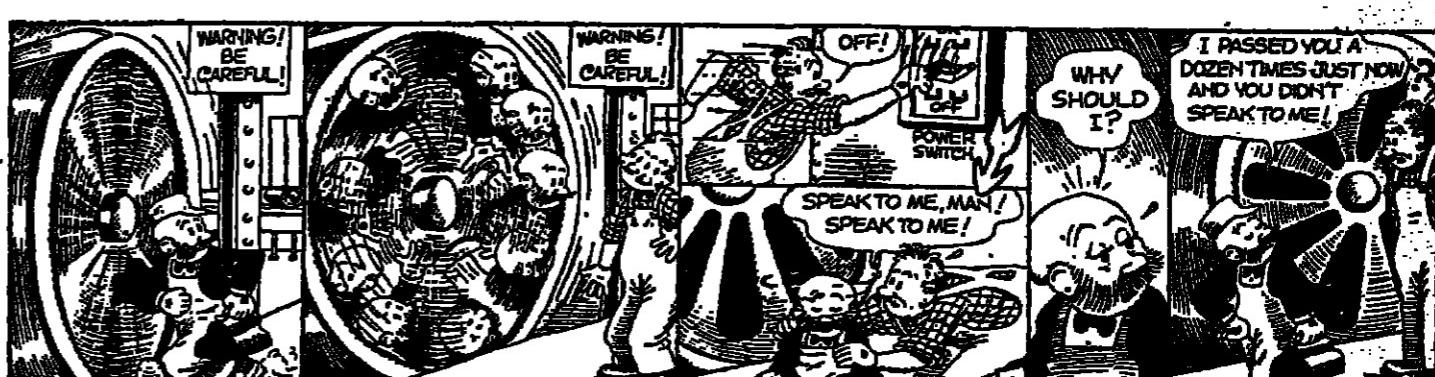
The year is 2010, a just peace is dominating our once troubled and volatile region. The Arabs are united under one umbrella, their economy flourishing and the future for our future generations looks bright and promising. The Palestinian people are exercising their political rights and are energetically busy in building a democratic confederacy. Israel's foremost concern of securing a safe border is vanished, now that peace prevails. Joint Arab-Israeli projects well on their way to bear fruit. Agricultural development and cooperation in Sudan is ensuring a source of food for the region. Petrochemical industries supply the region with all the necessary products. Scientific research into medical fields is on the verge of a major breakthrough. The space programme involving all the "Middle East Community" countries is in rivalry if not exceeding many existing space schemes. A marvellous coexisting symbiosis, combining the technological advancement of Israel and the zeal and affluence of the Arabs. The situation is now clear. The Middle East has emerged into a great power that is to a far extent, self-sufficient and prosperous, where there is uniformity of interests and tranquility of mind. People live in harmony irrespective of their various creeds. Islam, Christianity and Judaism preached complementary doctrines that are sufficient to ensure a peaceful coexistence. Now that you comprehend the picture, I ask you, can this be achieved? Is it in the interest of our children or is it fallacious?

By the same token, I ask you to delve into the abyss and imagine another possible vision. The year is 1991. People are nervously discussing the apocalypse as if it is around the corner. And they could be right, for the weapons of ultimate destruction are to our right and left. The Israeli ballistic missiles are launched, allowing few minutes prior to a total annihilation of any neighbouring country. Meanwhile, a retaliatory strike is to shower Tel Aviv with a highly toxic gas. Where are our children going to hide? Can it be avoided? Or is it a necessity? Ponder for a while, both situations are possible probabilities. Yet the first is very difficult to accomplish, while the latter is as easy as pressing the button. The road to peace is long and laborious, nevertheless quite fruitful.

Alfred Einstein was once asked, "how will the third world be fought?" "I don't know about the third", the visionary scientist replied, "but the fourth will surely be fought with stones."

Ali Malhas  
Amman

## Mutt'n Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



JOEL in Jaff

## LA SEMAINE DE

Suleiman Swiss

### L'Etablissement médical en mauvaise santé



Il est presque certain qu'un projet-loi concernant la dissolution de l'Etablissement médical (EM) sera présenté par le gouvernement à la prochaine session parlementaire extraordinaire, prévue pour le 15 mai. Il y a un mois, le directeur de l'EM, le docteur Abdul Saleem Majali a présenté sa démission. Son adjoint, le docteur Nael Ajlouni a pris sa succession il y a quelques jours. C'est le directeur de l'EM depuis sa création, il y a moins de deux ans! Lors de la démission du Dr Majali, un commentateur de notre confrère "Al-Rai" a constaté que la mort de l'EM était imminente.

Nous passons en revue tous ces faits pour illustrer la confusion qui règne autour de l'institution. Sa brève histoire constitue un bel exemple des décisions hâtives et précipitées prises par les gouvernements avant avril 1989.

Rappelons-nous : l'idée d'unifier les hôpitaux et les services médicaux offerts par le ministère de la Santé, l'armée et les universités, est née en avril 1988. En juin, une loi créant l'EM était précipitamment adoptée par le Parlement. Début juillet, l'Etablissement médical entrait en fonction. Le sujet n'avait pas été suffisamment discuté, ni pris en considération l'opposition de l'Association des médecins.

Officiellement, la création de l'EM a été justifiée par le besoin de coordonner les différents secteurs du service public et de réduire les dépenses de l'Etat dans le domaine de la santé. Sur le terrain, le nouvel organisme s'est traduit par des changements de structures et par des règlements administratifs déroutants. Dès la première année, le budget de l'EM a été fixé à 80 millions de dinars, alors que celui du ministère ne dépassait pas les 48 millions. A peine fondé, l'EM a été accusé de «gaspillage», à cause notamment de son luxe et gigantesque siège loué à Shmeisani. Or l'a également accusé d'être la concrétisation des recommandations de la Banque mondiale, transmises au gouvernement jordanien début 1988.

Ambiguïté, accusations, doutes, mauvaise gestion: voilà comment l'institution en est arrivée à la situation actuelle. Ce qui importe, au-delà de l'«épisode EM», c'est d'examiner les répercussions de la politique de santé sur la population.

Il est indéniable que le niveau général de la santé s'est amélioré dans le pays depuis quinze ans. L'accès aux soins s'est «démocratisé», permettant aux plus pauvres d'en bénéficier à des tarifs presque symboliques. Résultat: les hôpitaux et les centres sanitaires du ministère ont connu une forte surcharge, qui s'est répercutée sur la qualité de ces organismes.

En 1986, lorsque la crise économique battait son plein, on a commencé à chercher le moyen de réduire les dépenses du budget. Dans le même temps, l'idée de faire payer les frais des soins par le patient a fait son chemin. Pour la faire financer le «projet EM» et faire avaler ce changement radical de politique médicale, on l'a lié à un autre projet, dit de «l'assurance sanitaire totale». Au lieu d'étudier profondément les différents points de vue, le gouvernement de Zeid Rifai a vite installé l'EM avant de s'assurer de son financement. Les déclarations faisant état d'une gestion de l'EM sur des «bases commerciales» ont confirmé les craintes de médecins dorénavant payés au prix fort. Or, faut-il rappeler que plus de la moitié des Jordaniens ne sont couverts par aucune assurance sociale ou médicale?

Le «problème de financement» a été avancé comme la raison directe de la démission du Dr Majali, pourtant reconnu un homme compétent. Mais qui ne connaît pas les difficultés financières du gouvernement? La disparition de l'Etablissement semble donc fatale.

Il est encore un peu tôt pour le confirmer. Le Parlement, en effet, le dernier mot: Autant s'attendre à des débats houleux sur le sujet, car la condamnation de l'expérience de l'EM va peut-être marquer un tournant dans la politique envers les établissements publics en général.

## Le centre jordanien d'enseignement artistique

### Pionnier de l'art contemporain

Né il y a 24 ans à Amman, le centre d'enseignement artistique (\*) est incontestablement à l'origine du mouvement artistique moderne en Jordanie. En témoignent les nombreux artistes du pays qui sont

En 1966, le peintre jordanien Mehana Derra réussit à convaincre les responsables du royaume de fonder un centre d'enseignement des Beaux Arts. Au mois de septembre de la même année son souhait se réalisait: pour la première fois en Jordanie, un Centre d'enseignement artistique (CEA) voyait le jour, offrant d'emblée des cours de musique, de théâtre, d'art plastique, d'une manière académique et scientifique.

Le but initial du CEA, dont il ne s'est jamais départi depuis, était de propager la conscience artistique et d'aider quiconque le désirait à développer ses dons, grâce à un enseignement moderne, aux normes internationales. L'avènement de ce centre d'un nouveau genre attira rapidement un nombre important d'artistes aussi bien que des débutants, se lancant avec enthousiasme, liberté et fraternité dans l'aventure. Ils développèrent le centre, alors installé dans les locaux de l'actuel centre américain, près du troisième cercle sur le djebel Amman.

Le CEA est aujourd'hui considéré comme le noyau, le pionnier du mouvement artistique moderne en Jordanie. Son premier directeur fut le musicien renommé Youcef Khachan. Ses assistants: dix académistes, chargés d'assurer un enseignement de qualité.

«Garçons et filles, nous avons travaillé ensemble, dans un climat amical, sans sentir de grande différence entre professeurs et étudiants», se souvient Mamoun Zobien, qui fut le premier élève de l'institut. «C'est un lieu où l'on a passé nos loisirs à faire quelque chose de constructif», ajoute-t-il.

Subventionnées par l'Etat, les études ont dès la première heure été entièrement gratuites. L'adhésion était ouverte à tous sans qu'il soit nécessaire de posséder un diplôme, de nombreux Jordaniens, de milieux sociaux très différents, ont pu exercer leur sens artistique. A vrai dire, beaucoup ont poursuivi leurs études ensuite, notamment à l'étranger, et sont aujourd'hui des artistes accomplis. Parmi eux, certains sont devenus professeurs, tel Mamoun Zobien ou Youssef Baddawi, qui enseignent respectivement la composition et le dessin dans les locaux actuels du CEA, à Wadi Sagra.

Ce démenti nécessaire pour faire face à l'affluence des artistes en herbes et des amateurs d'art. Le CEA se devait donc de s'agrandir. Aujourd'hui, il se compose de trois départements, répartis sur trois étages. L'un accueille les arts plastiques (peinture, graphisme, sculpture, céramique et calligraphie arabe), où dix enseignants de niveau académique assurent la formation de 80 élèves disposant d'un matériel ad hoc. Le second est consacré à l'enseignement théâtral, depuis la réalisation, jusqu'à l'habillage en passant par la prise de son. Vingt quatre étudiants s'y perfectionnent sous la conduite de six professeurs. Enfin, le troisième étage a été réservé à la musique, matière la plus prisée: 200 enfants et adultes y pratiquent avec 12 enseignants, qui le piano, qui le oud, qui le violon... Autant d'instruments



Années 1960: les débuts du CEA...

que le centre tente de mettre, le plus souvent possible, gratuitement à la portée des musiciens.

Au quelque 304 élèves, que le centre accueille du samedi au jeudi entre 15h00 et 18h00, viennent s'ajouter autant en été. Ces derniers choisissent de consacrer leurs vacances à leur hobby.

«Je pense que le centre joue un rôle important dans la vie culturelle mais aussi sociale des Jordaniens, particulièrement des jeunes», estime Hazem Rifai, le directeur du CEA. Notre rôle principal ne consiste pas à former quelques uns des plus grands musiciens du royaume, tel que Amer Madi, qui aujourd'hui dirige son

propres orchestres, où encore Antoine Chamoun, lui aussi à la tête d'une formation instrumentale. Le théâtre n'est pas en reste. Les meilleurs acteurs et actrices du pays sont pour la plupart d'anciens étudiants du CEA.

Le centre pense aussi à l'avenir. Depuis 6 mois, l'atelier musical met sur pied une chorale d'enfants. «Nous espérons qu'elle donnera de bons résultats», souligne Hazem Rifai.

Nombreux sont ceux qui aujourd'hui suggèrent la transformation du centre en Académie des Beaux-Arts. Ses responsables n'y sont pas favorables, afin de préserver son ouverture à tous les publics et non aux seules vocations artistiques. Le CEA souffre cependant d'un manque crucial d'enseignants, et d'espace et... d'argent. Certes, le ministère de la Culture envisage dans un proche avenir d'appuyer la décentralisation des activités du centre et d'ouvrir des ateliers semblables à ceux d'Amman dans d'autres villes du royaume. On imagine cependant que la promotion artistique ne fait pas partie des priorités budgétaires. Malheureusement.

Sabbah al-Hadidi.

(\*) Centre d'enseignement artistique, Wadi Sagra (face à l'hôtel Philadelphia). Tél: 661020.

## Crise syndicale en Jordanie?

### Haydar Rachid: «La démocratisation est notre objectif»



Haydar Rachid.

*Fin avril, les représentants de dix syndicats sur les dix-sept qui composent la Fédération générale des travailleurs jordaniens (FGTJ) ont annoncé la formation d'un «groupement syndical démocratique», véritable opposition déclarée au sein de la fédération. Et ce, au lendemain de la réunion du Conseil central de la FGTJ, qui a élu le nouveau Comité exécutif de la centrale syndicale. Haydar Rachid, président du syndicat des employés de banque et porte-parole du nouveau groupement, explique les raisons d'un tel choix au "Jourdain".*

*Le "Jourdain": Quels sont les syndicats qui forment ce "Groupement"?*

**Haydar Rachid:** Ce sont les syndicats des secteurs suivants: services publics; mines; textile; magasins; industrie alimentaire; électricité; services sanitaires; ports; imprimeries; banques et assurances.

Ces syndicats totalisent 39 délégués sur les 95 que compte le Conseil central de la FGTJ.

**L. J.:** Pourquoi contestez-vous les résultats des élections du Comité exécutif par le Conseil central réuni le 22 avril dernier?

**H. R.:** Nous nous sommes réunis parce que nous mettons en doute la légitimité de la représentation de quatre syndicats, à savoir ceux des travailleurs des transports routiers et des mécaniciens, des transports aériens, des employés des municipalités et, enfin des chemins de fer. Ces syndicats ont passé entre la loi du tra-

vail. Par exemple, le ministère du Travail s'est dit d'accord le 9 avril dernier pour «régulariser» la situation du syndicat des transports routiers dans cinq mois. Par conséquent, les délégués de ce syndicat n'ont, pour l'heure, pas le droit d'exercer le droit de vote au sein du Conseil central. Deuxième objection: l'ancien Comité exécutif n'a pas présenté son rapport financier complet devant le Conseil central. Et pour cause: le CE payait un salaire mensuel à un permanent syndical sans l'approbation du Conseil central. Qui doit en assumer la responsabilité et qui va payer la somme? Troisième objection: le président du Conseil central a remplacé des membres suppléants par des membres effectifs du Conseil, dans le but de réunir le quorum. Il n'a pas respecté le règlement. Bref, nous voulons que les règles démocratiques soient respectées au sein de la FGTJ.

**L. J.:** Vous considérez-vous comme une scission de la Fédération?

**H. R.:** Absolument pas. Nous sommes fondateurs de la FGTJ. Notre objectif est de sauver notre fédération des pratiques anti-démocratiques de la direction. Nous luttons à l'intérieur de la FGTJ par la voie démocratique. Nous refusons tout simplement que la volonté des syndiqués soit truquée ou déformée, comme cela s'est produit dans les dernières élections. Depuis la révolte d'avril 1989, la Jordanie connaît une aventure démocratique, tant sur le plan politique que sur le plan social. Pourquoi les ouvriers n'en profiteraient pas? La FGTJ doit jouer ce rôle en se conformant aux intérêts et aux aspirations de ceux qu'elle est chargée de représenter.

Propos recueillis par Suleiman Swiss.

## EN BREF

**Patriarche.** Arrivé mardi en Jordanie pour une visite de quatre jours, le patriarche grec-orthodoxe de Jérusalem, Mgr Diodorus I, a été reçu mercredi par le roi Hussein puis jeudi par le premier ministre Moudar Badrane. Mgr Diodorus I, qui a indiqué que sa venue à Amman visait à informer les autorités jordanienes des détails de l'occupation d'un bâtiment orthodoxe par des colons juifs au cœur de la Ville Sainte, a rendu hommage à la «solidarité islamo-chrétienne» qui s'est manifestée face à cette situation. Le souverain hachémite a pour sa part assuré son hôte que le souci [des Jordaniens] pour les lieux saints chrétiens relève d'une question de principe (...) au-dessus de toute considération politique».

**Fond koweïtien.** Le Fonds koweïtien pour le développement économique arabe (FDEA) a accordé cette semaine un prêt de 17 millions de dollars à la Jordanie pour le financement des projets de la Banque nationale de développement industriel au cours de la période 1990-1993. Cette enveloppe financière, qui vise à encourager l'investissement dans le secteur privé, couvre 18% du coût total estimé des projets envisagés par la banque jordanienne pour les trois prochaines années. Le remboursement de ce prêt s'effectuera en 24 paiements semestriels, échelonnés sur 17 ans, avec une période de grâce de 5 ans. Le premier versement devrait intervenir le 1er juillet 1995.

**Complexe.** La Jordanie s'apprête à construire un grand complexe touristique, le premier du genre au Proche-Orient, à annoncé mercredi le président de la Société royale pour la protection de la nature (RSCN). Anis Mouacher, qui patronne cette initiative estimée à un million de dollars, a précisé que ce projet serait établi à Dana, à 200 kilomètres au sud d'Amman, et comprendrait un village, un camp pour touristes et une réserve pour la protection de la faune et de la flore. Ce complexe touristique, dont l'étude sera achevée avant la mi-juin, bénéficie de l'aide financière de l'USAID, l'agence américaine de développement international, et des contacts ont été pris avec la World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) ainsi qu'avec des sociétés japonaises. Sa construction devrait débuter en juillet et durer quatre ans.

**Libre.** Frank Reed, l'otage américain libéré lundi dernier à Beyrouth après 43 mois de détention au Liban, a quitté l'Allemagne fédérale pour les États-Unis vendredi. Âgé de 57 ans, Frank Reed y sera à nouveau hospitalisé. Sa fille a affirmé jeudi qu'il avait été «seulement battu» par ses ravisseurs lors d'une tentative d'évasion. Selon elle, son père n'a pas été soigné des blessures occasionnées et n'est toujours pas guéri.

**Syrie-Egypte.** Le président égyptien Hosni Moubarak, qui a effectué mercredi et jeudi une visite officielle de 2 jours en Syrie où il a rencontré à trois reprises le président Hafez al-Assad, a affirmé jeudi à Damas que la normalisation des relations entre les deux pays est «d'une importance capitale» pour la solution de la question palestinienne. M. Moubarak a également annoncé que le Caire et Damas étaient convenus de «rétablir leur coopération (...).» Cette visite du président égyptien en Syrie est la première à ce niveau depuis 1977. Les deux pays avaient rétabli leurs relations diplomatiques en décembre dernier, après une rupture de 11 ans due à la visite à Jérusalem d'Anouar el-Sadate.

**Contestation.** Le président syrien a affirmé jeudi être étonné que, contrairement aux usages, le lieu de réunion du prochain sommet arabe extraordinaire «ait été fixé sans consultations préalables». Commentant le choix de Bagdad pour cette convocation à la demande de l'OLP, Hafez al-Assad a indiqué préférer une capitale non sujette à controverse. D'autant, a-t-il précisé que «de fossé» entre Damas et Bagdad, dont les relations diplomatiques sont rompus depuis 1980, «reste très large et il faudra du temps et des efforts». Selon le ministère irakien des Affaires étrangères, un émissaire de Saddam Hussein doit se rendre prochainement à Damas pour inviter le chef de l'Etat syrien au sommet, qui doit se tenir en mai à Bagdad pour aborder notamment le problème de l'immigration massive des juifs d'URSS et des pays de l'Est vers Israël.

**Candidature?** L'ancien ministre israélien de la Défense et numéro deux du Parti travailliste, Yitzhak Rabin, a annoncé cette semaine son intention de poser sa candidature à la direction de cette formation, dont Shimon Peres est actuellement le leader. M. Rabin a précisé qu'il prendrait une telle initiative au cas où le Likoud (droite nationaliste) réussirait à former un gouvernement restreint, renvoyant ainsi les travaillistes dans l'opposition jusqu'aux prochaines élections législatives, prévues en 1992.

**Grand Yémen.** La proclamation de la République Yéménite unifiée, initialement prévue pour novembre 1990, intervient vraisemblablement le 27 mai prochain. L'annonce, qui aura lieu à Sanaa, capitale du futur Etat, sera précédée par plusieurs «mesures importantes», dont, le 24 mai, les réunions séparées des Parlements des deux Yémen pour entériner le projet de constitution commune et, le 26 mai, la formation d'un Parlement unifié provisoire de 301 membres.

**OPEP.** Le président de l'OPEP (Organisation des pays exportateurs de pétrole), Dadek Boussena, a annoncé jeudi que les 13 pays membres de l'organisation étaient tombés d'accord «à l'unanimité» pour réduire la production d'au moins 1,445 million de barils par jour jusqu'à fin juillet, pour pousser les prix à la hausse. Les Emirats Arabes Unis se sont ainsi engagés à amplifier leur production de 200 000 barils-jour. La prochaine conférence ordinaire de l'OPEP, qui doit décider des quotas de production pour le second semestre de cette année, se réunira le 25 juillet.

**Place Rouge.** Le président Mikhaïl Gorbatchev a quitté mardi dernier la tribune officielle du mausolée de Lénine, sur la Place Rouge, sous les cris et les sifflets d'hostilité des manifestants rassemblés pour le 1er mai à l'appel des mouvements réformateurs. Le numéro un soviétique est parti une demi-heure après le début de la manifestation, la première à être autorisée à défilé sur la Place Rouge. Toutes les personnalités présentes à la tribune se sont également retirées, y compris le maire de Moscou, Gavril Popov, élu de l'opposition progressive.

**Abolition.** L'Assemblée fédérale tchècoslovaque a voté mercredi soir l'abolition de la peine de mort, dans le cadre d'une série d'amendements apportés par le Parlement au code pénal du pays. Dans des cas de crimes particulièrement graves, la peine capitale pourra être remplacée par des emprisonnements allant jusqu'à 25 ans ou par une condamnation à perpétuité. 53 verdicts de mort ont été prononcés en Tchécoslovaquie depuis 1968 et 46 condamnés ont été pendus jusqu'en février 1989, date de la dernière exécution connue.

**Mandela-Mitterrand.** Nelson Mandela, vice-président du Congrès national africain (ANC) sera reçu à Paris le 6 juillet par le président François Mitterrand. Tout comme le chef de l'Etat de l'apartheid, Frédéric de Clerc, qui doit rencontrer le 10 mai en Afrique du Sud, M. Mandela doit effectuer une tournée en Europe. Il se rendra notamment au Parlement européen, à Strasbourg, entre le 11 et le 15 juillet, avant de s'entretenir à Londres avec Margaret Thatcher le 3 juillet.

**Racisme.** Le président français a appelé jeudi à écarter «tout racisme de racisme et d'exclusion» et a rendu hommage au comité de réflexion sur l'islam en France récemment mis en place par le gouvernement. François Mitterrand s'est exprimé lors d'une cérémonie à l'Elysée, siège de la présidence, à l'occasion de la remise des insignes de chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur à l'un des membres de cette nouvelle institution, le Dr Bachir Eddine Lahache. «Dans un pays comme le nôtre, a ajouté M. Mitterrand, chacun doit disposer de ce droit premier, qui est la liberté de penser, de conscience, d'expression».

## Les jeunes Français et la science

### Un rapport de confiance et d'intérêt

Le laser, la fusée Ariane et Pasteur sont les vedettes scientifiques des jeunes Français de 11 à 17 ans (\*). Popularité, qui pour Pasteur vient sans doute de l'école,

Ce qui intéresse manifestement le plus les jeunes Français, c'est la vie, l'histoire de l'homme et des espèces vivantes, avant tout celle des animaux (67% d'entre eux), suivie de près par le corps humain et les découvertes médicales (60%). L'exploration de l'espace (52%), le ciel, les étoiles et l'univers (50%), ou encore la préhistoire et la nature ne viennent qu'ensuite.

D'après leurs réponses, en partie contradictoires (l'école et la fiction), le scientifique «ne ressemble pas à un professeur» pour 60% des jeunes, mais bien plutôt à un inventeur (88%), à un explorateur (74%), voire à un médecin (71%). Qu'appellent-ils la science? Systématiquement, la physique, la biologie et, chez les

plus âgés, les mathématiques. Ils y rangent moins souvent l'informatique et la météo. N'en sont pas du tout, selon eux, la politique (90%), l'histoire (77%) et les... horoscopes (60%). La croyance en l'astrologie est cependant, chez les adolescents comme chez les adultes, forte dans les classes populaires et moyennes.

Quant aux possibilités de la science, on peut être étonné d'apprendre que 20% des jeunes interrogés «ont sûrement», quand on leur demande s'ils croient qu'un jour, «la science permettra de faire une machine pour voyager dans le temps». 42% répondent «oui, peut-être». De même qu'ils envisagent dans les mêmes

proportions qu'existeront dans le futur des machines aussi intelligentes que l'homme. On peut voir là l'influence de la science-fiction, d'autant que ces certitudes ou quasi certitudes s'ébranlent avec l'âge.

En fait, les jeunes Français ont généralement une bonne opinion de la science. 87% des «sondés» disent lui faire confiance et 84% avouent s'y intéresser. 10% seulement en ont «très peu» et 32% sont «un peu» inquiets. Ils sont rarement indifférents, en tout cas.

A noter que les modèles culturels propres aux adultes se retrouvent très tôt chez l'enfant: d'une part l'écart entre filles et garçons, si faible qu'il soit, reste

## PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANÇAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

### Promotion-odyssée

Ave Egeria!

Il faut que je te raconte l'odyssée vécue par le pauvre Mario Rossi. C'est un jeune homme capable et intelligent. Il vient d'obtenir une promotion dans la boîte où il travaille et sa première mission à l'étranger. Dieu seul sait s'il a bossé pour en arriver là. Il a même pris des leçons privées d'anglais à la Schenker School de Rome.

Il débarque à Amman pour un travail très important et sa première impression est tout à fait positive. Les Jordaniens sont très gentils et son correspondant l'a tout de suite invité pour un dîner, le soir même. A huit heures et demie tapantes, il arrive devant la majestueuse villa en pierre blanche de son hôte. Un Philippin lui ouvre la porte et un autre Philippin, aussi énigmatique et stylé, lui tend un plateau plein de boissons. La couleur du liquide qui est contenu dans les verres guide son choix. Il a vu juste: il se retrouve avec un whisky-soda en main.

Il n'est pas tout à fait à son aise, mais ses mocassins et sa cravate italiens lui donnent confiance. Il constate aussi, avec satisfaction, que sa façon de parler anglais ne doit pas être trop mauvaise, car son hôte ne semble pas avoir du mal à le comprendre. La maison est somptueuse et sur les nombreuses tables basses il y a des petites coupes pleines d'amandes, pistaches, cacahuètes... mais oui, puis chiches... jamais vu ça!

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Les dames se sont assises autour du salon, une près de l'autre, et il n'ose pas s'asseoir aussi. Il reste courageusement debout et avec des gestes désinvoltes il attrape les cacahuètes par poignées. Elles sont très bonnes; il faudra qu'il apprenne à sa femme à les servir la première fois qu'il se propose de posséder un jour, c'est un de ces magnifiques portraits, beaucoup plus grands que nature et si ressemblants, qui donnerait à son appartement au Parc le chic nécessaire à bâtrir son image sociale. On lui a dit qu'ils sont faits selon une technique très spéciale à Londres.

Il a très, très, très faim. Son estomac grogne. Il est dix heures trente. Se serait-il trompé, l'invitation n'étant qu'une réception après dîner? Mais, dans ce cas, il y aurait des friandises à grignoter, peut-être des glaces, tandis que rien de contestable n'est visible, à part ces pistaches qu'il commence à hair. Il en a plein les dents et il donnerait un cri pour pouvoir se fourrer un doigt dans la bouche pour s'en libérer. Par de minuscules mouvements de succion, qu'il espère inaudibles, il essaye de libérer au moins ses incisives.

Il pense avec nostalgie douloureuse à son appartement, où, à huit heures précises, on s'assoit à table et, après s'être souhaité bon appétit, on mange des choses tendrement familières. Ayant trouvé un soutien dans le verre de whisky, il en est à son cinquième. Sa tête bourdonne et ses jambes sont molles. Onze heures! Ce n'est pas vrai, c'est un cauchemar! Il a l'œil vitreux et son teint tourne au gris verdâtre. Finalement, à onze heures trente passées, on sent le dîner et par le gros soupir exhalé par tous les Occidentaux présents, notre ami comprend qu'il n'avait pas été seul dans la détresse.

Le buffet est magnifique, digne de la Rome impériale. Les plats sont nombreux, souvent exotiques, bien présentés, parfumés. Mario Rossi remplit son assiette mais, dès qu'il est assis à table, il se rend compte qu'il ne pourra rien avaler. On dirait que les cacahuètes se sont reconstruites dans son pauvre estomac et dansent la lambada en flottant dans le whisky & soda. Une catastrophe! Il prend son temps, bavarde distraînement avec ses voisins de table sans pouvoir cacher son air de cockerapéen frappé de colique, tout en débattant dans son profond entre faire un effort surhumain et goûter à tous ces mets alléchants, ou sagement y renoncer.

Il en est encore là, quand d'un mouvement général tout le monde se lève et s'en va. Dix minutes et le salon est vide. Le moment du dîner a été si rapide, que notre ami s'est à peine rendu compte que les desserts et le café avaient été servis. Il reste bredouille devant son assiette pleine, mais, étant d'une nature assez éveillée malgré tout, il se retrouve lui aussi hors de la maison en une fraction de minute. Il aura toute la nuit pour méditer sur les habitudes des étrangers.

Conseil pratique: quand vous êtes invités par des Jordaniens, prenez un petit repas au préalable, et surtout, ne mangez pas de cacahuètes.

Vale Egeria!



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Ils volent au secours des hommes d'affaires débordés

### Les économiseurs de temps

«Le temps, c'est de l'argent»: convaincue que le vieil adage est plus vrai que jamais aux Etats-Unis, une société américaine propose aux surchargés de travail d'effectuer pour eux toutes les tâches ingrates.

Rien ne fait peur aux centaines d'employés de «Timebusters», une entreprise créée par une jeune femme de Washington, Anne Griffin. Ils feront la queue pendant des heures pour obtenir auprès des services municipaux l'indispensable vignette ou plaque minéralogique: ils attendront l'installateur du téléphone; ils emmèneront le chat chez le vétérinaire; ils feront encore réparer le lecteur de disques compacts ou achèteront les cadeaux de Noël.

L'idée de fonder «Timebusters» est venue il y a deux ans à Anne Griffin, une ancienne secrétaire de 30 ans. L'entreprise a vu le jour en décembre 1988. Quatre personnes y travaillent à plein temps et plusieurs centaines à temps partiel. Vêtus d'amples capes blanches et coiffés de casquettes de base-ball frappées du logo de la société (un chronomètre barré), les employés de «Timebusters» ne passent pas inaperçus. L'uniforme a été choisi en référence au film «Ghostbusters», qui relate, sur le mode comique, une chasse aux fantômes et qui connaît il y a quelques années un triomphe au box-office américain.

Un simple coup de fil, même passé à la dernière minute, suffit pour avoir recours aux services de «Timebusters». Les clients se retrouvent surtout parmi les nombreux avocats de Washington, en particulier les célibataires, et les femmes d'affaires. Tous soucieux d'utiliser au mieux leur «précieux» temps de travail mais aussi leurs rares moments de loisir.

Les «économiseurs de temps» réclament 22 dollars l'heure, de

Désolée, mon ange, mon économiseur de temps est en grève...

8h00 à 20h00, et 33 dollars pour intervenir la nuit. Le dimanche, le tarif augmente encore, passant à 44 dollars l'heure, car «ce jour devrait être consacré au repos», estime Anne Griffin.

Les affaires marchent fabuleusement bien, reconnaît la jeune femme, qui envisage d'ouvrir une section «traiter» et d'étendre les activités de son entreprise aux banlieues américaines de Washington.

Anne Griffin est persuadée que non seulement les hommes d'affaires disposent de peu de temps, mais aussi qu'ils l'utilisent mal. D'où le projet de créer une division «bureau», qui réorganisera leur travail de manière rationnelle pour une efficacité «maximale». A des tarifs, qui restent encore à fixer. (D'après agences)

des jeux électroniques et de la bande dessinée pour le laser, des médias pour Ariane.

## Les jeunes Français et la science

### Un rapport de confiance et d'intérêt

Le laser, la fusée Ariane et Pasteur sont les vedettes scientifiques des jeunes Français de 11 à 17 ans (\*). Popularité, qui pour Pasteur vient sans doute de l'école,

plus âgés, les mathématiques. Ils y rangent moins souvent l'informatique et la météo. N'en sont pas du tout, selon eux, la politique (90%), l'histoire (77%) et les... horoscopes (60%). La croyance en l'astrologie est cependant, chez les adolescents comme chez les adultes, forte dans les classes populaires et moyennes.

Quant aux possibilités de la science, on peut être étonné d'apprendre que 20% des jeunes interrogés «ont sûrement», quand on leur demande s'ils croient qu'un jour, «la science permettra de faire une machine pour voyager dans le temps». 42% répondent «oui, peut-être». De même qu'ils envisagent dans les mêmes

proportions qu'existeront dans le futur des machines aussi intelligentes que l'homme. On peut voir là l'influence de la science-fiction, d'autant que ces certitudes ou quasi certitudes s'ébranlent avec l'âge.

En fait, les jeunes Français ont généralement une bonne opinion de la science. 87% des «sondés» disent lui faire confiance et 84% avouent s'y intéresser. 10% seulement en ont «très peu» et 32% sont «un peu» inquiets. Ils sont rarement indifférents, en tout cas.

A noter que les modèles culturels propres aux adultes se retrouvent très tôt chez l'enfant: d'une part l'écart entre filles et garçons, si faible qu'il soit, reste

## PASSEZ-MOI MON FRANÇAIS

La rubrique de Flavia Romero

### Promotion-odyssée

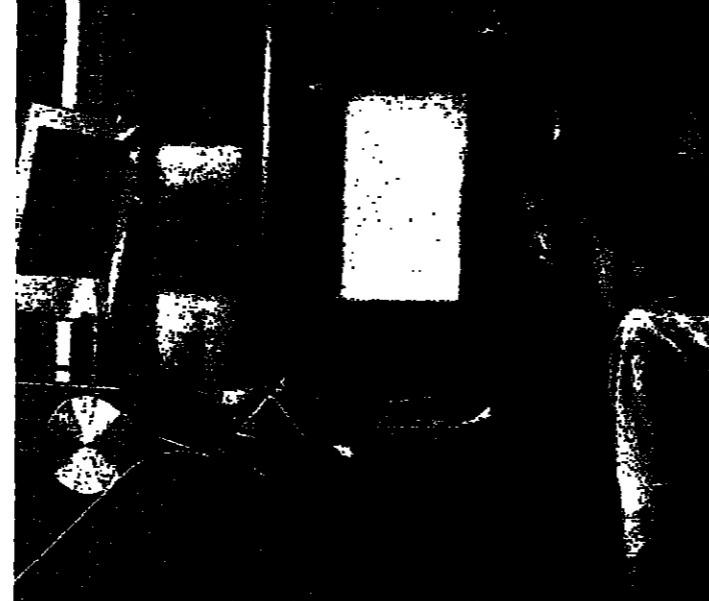
Ave Egeria!

Il faut que je te raconte l'odyssée vécue par le pauvre Mario Rossi. C'est un jeune homme capable et intelligent. Il vient d'obtenir une promotion dans la boîte où il travaille et sa première mission à l'étranger. Dieu seul sait s'il a bossé pour en arriver là. Il a même pris des leçons privées d'anglais à la Schenker School de Rome.

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# Features

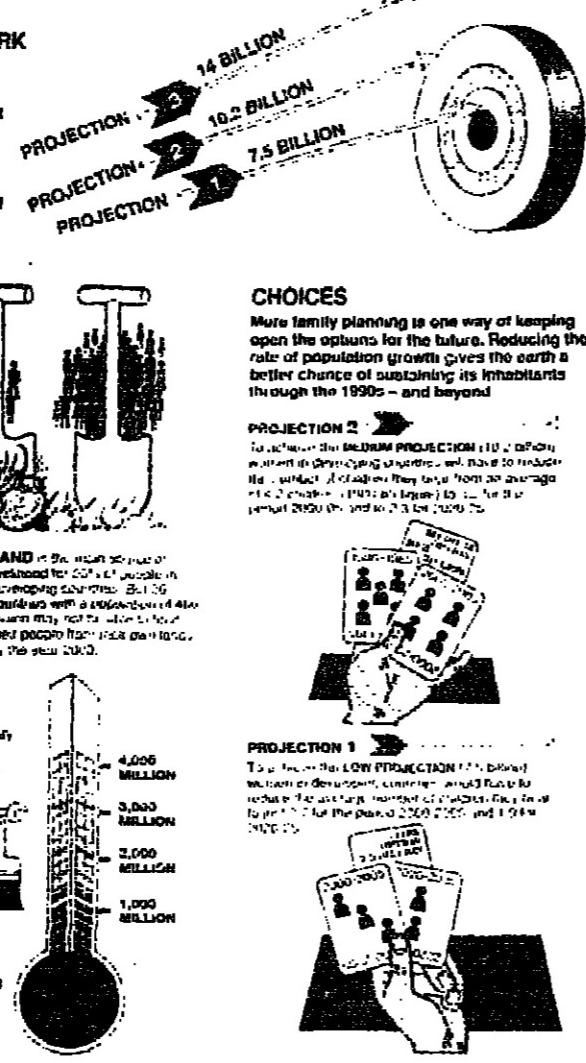
## Choices for a new century

### A crucial balance

The world's population is growing at the rate of three people per second — a quarter of a million people a day. This is faster than ever before. But can the earth's damaged environment carry such numbers into the 1990s and beyond? How can we protect the planet and keep open the options for future generations?

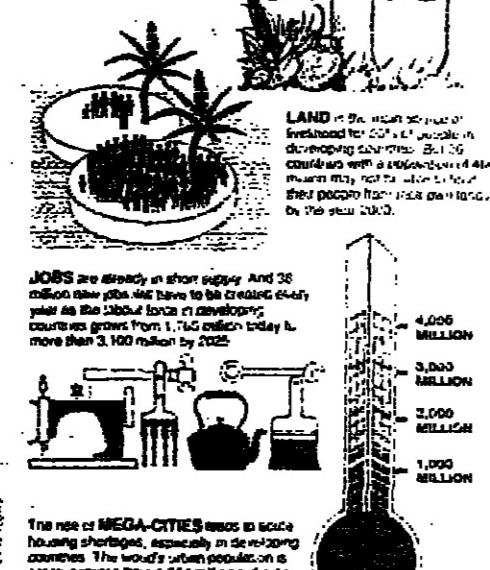
#### Overshooting the mark

There are now 5.3 billion people in the world. Recent predictions that global population would stabilize at around 10.2 billion now seem too low. If 11 billion seems more likely, does it mean that family planning does not increase as projected the world could be headed for a total of 14 billion.



#### Race against resources

Food production is not keeping pace with population growth. Per capita food availability has declined by 40 African countries in 1977-85 and in 17 out of 23 in Latin America.



#### CHOICES

More family planning is one way of keeping open the options for the future. Reducing the rate of population growth gives the earth a better chance of containing its inhabitants through the 1990s — and beyond.

**PROJECTION 2** To achieve the medium projection (10.2 billion) in 2025, family planning must be increased to 2.3 children per couple. This is twice the average in 1980.

**PROJECTION 1** To achieve the low projection (7.5 billion) in 2025, family planning must be increased to 2.8 children per couple. This is four times the average in 1980.

**World population, now 5.3 billion, will increase by another billion (one thousand million) people during the 1990s. During the next century it will probably double and could triple, says this year's State of World Population Report from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The biggest increase will be in the poorest countries; consequences for the environment and for development prospects will be serious. They could be catastrophic.**

are the countries overwhelmingly responsible for damage to the Ozone layer and acidification; as well as for roughly two-thirds of global warming", the report states.

"However, in developing countries the combination of poverty and population growth among the 'bottom billion' is damaging the environment, notably through deforestation and land degradation.

Deforestation is a prime source of carbon dioxide, one of the principal 'greenhouse gases' responsible for global warming. Rice paddies and domestic cattle food suppliers for two billion people in developing countries are also major producers of methane, another of the greenhouse gases."

The report says that developing countries are also doing their best to increase their share of industrial production and consumption.

development," the report says.

"The quality of human life is inseparable from the quality of the environment. It is increasingly clear that both are inseparable from the question of human numbers and concentration. One of the clearest lessons of the last two decades of work in populations is that investments in human resource development — for example, improvements in women's status, access to education, health and the means of family planning — not only improve the quality of life, but are also the best and quickest way to reduce the population growth rates. By opening up options in the present, they open up options for the future."

The report argues that investment in human resources provides a firm base for rapid economic development, could have a significant impact on the environment crisis and is essential for global security. However, in the past it has often commanded a lower priority than industry, agriculture or military expenditure.

"It is time for a new scale of priorities: there is no other sphere of development where investment can make such a large contribution to the options and quality of life, both in the present and in the future."

"At the start of the 1990s, the choice must be to act decisively to slow population growth, attack poverty and protect the environment. The alternative is to hand on to our children a poisoned inheritance," the report says.

The next ten years will decide the shape of the 21st century. They may decide the future of the earth as a habitat for humans, says Dr. Naifeh Sadik, UNFPA Executive Director.

The 1990s will see greater increases in human numbers than any decade in history, according to the Report. World population is increasing by three people every second — about a quarter of a million each day. Between 90 and 100 million people, roughly equivalent to the current population of eastern Europe or central America, will be added every year during the 1990s.

World population growth continues to be grossly out of balance, with more than 90 per cent of the growth coming in the developing regions. By and large, the biggest increases will be in the poorest countries — those by definition least equipped to meet the needs of the new arrivals and invest in the future.

Just a few years ago, in 1984, it seemed as if the rate of population growth was slowing everywhere except Africa and parts of South Asia. The world's population seemed set to stabilise around 10.2 billion towards the end of the next century, the report continues.

Today, the situation looks less promising. Progress in reducing birth rates has been slower than expected. According to the latest United Nations projections, the world has overtaken the marker points of the 1984 "most likely" medium projection, and is now on course for an eventual total that will be closer to 11 billion than 10 billion.

In 15 countries — 13 of them in Africa — birth rates actually rose between 1965-85 and 1980-85. In another 23 the birth rate fell by less than two per cent.

If fertility reductions continue to be slower than projected, the mark could be missed yet again. In that case the world could be headed towards an eventual total of up to 14 billion people.

Of the present 5.3 billion people on earth, about a billion live in poverty. Can the earth meet even modest aspirations for this 'bottom billion', let alone those of the better-off and their descendants, without irreparable damage to its life-support systems? asks the report.

"Already our impact has been sufficient to degrade the soils of millions of hectares, to threaten the rain forests and the thousands of species they harbour, to thin the Ozone layer, and to initiate a global warming whose full consequences cannot yet be calculated."

By far the largest share of resources used and waste created is currently the responsibility of the 'top billion' people, those in industrialized countries. These

## Mérieux-Connaught — leader for vaccines

By Gilles Rousset

THE Mérieux Institute, a 50.6 per cent of Rhône-Poulenc, the biggest French chemicals firm, was already the top firm in the world for vaccines, a market representing 5.5 billion francs, even before its successful takeover bid of the Canadian company Connaught BioSciences.

So why did Mérieux adamantly strive to acquire Connaught through a difficult, expensive and contested takeover bid?

The reason is quite straightforward as Alain Mérieux, the firm's president and managing director, explains: "The acquisition of Connaught is essential for us. The main problem we are faced with, as all the firms in the biomedical sector, is a considerable increase in spending on research and development which can amount to up to 20 per cent of our turnover. It is very expensive and only just bearable. In a word, we need to reach a critical size so as to be able to integrate new technologies and bear the cost of chemical research."

Mérieux did not choose Connaught BioSciences by chance. In addition to a sector of toxicology (Bio Research) and pharmaceuticals (35.4 per cent of Novartis), this Canadian company has an important vaccine sector with Connaught Laboratories.

If is this sector which interests the Mérieux Institute, as it makes synergistic possible, that is to say the pooling, at a lower cost, of the means of production, and, above all, of the research and development of new technologies in this area.

Mérieux's complementarity

in the race on a world level, played a bold card. The cost of this purchase amounts to 5.2 billion francs. However, the firm is to rid itself of the activities of Connaught which do not interest it directly, and, thereby, reduce the investment to 3.5 billion francs.

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## Spirituality and solidarity — role of religion in conflict situations

NICOSIA — Christians from the Middle East, South Africa, and Ireland met here April 23-27, 1990 at the invitation of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) for a consultation on "The Role of Religion in Situations of Conflict: Its Use and Misuse." The 35 participants concentrated their discussions on seeing how religion can play a constructive role in contributing to reconciliation and peace based on justice, rather than being used to justify divisions and conflicts, according to a spokesman for the conference.

The spokesman said:

In the course of their meetings participants became aware of both commonalities and particularities in their respective situations. Commonalities were evident in the many difficult theological questions confronting the different situations of conflict discussed. Particularities were reflected in the way in which responses to these questions were formulated, and strategies towards solutions of conflicts were adopted.

A main common concern was the misuse of religion or religious sentiments in some situations in order to formulate political ideologies or to mobilise masses behind selfish aims. This is not to say that the conflicts in question are religious, or that religion necessarily plays a determining role in them. Nor does it mean that religious people should be considered better negotiators than the non-religious political leadership. It was affirmed that faith should enable people to respect racial, ethnic and religious differences while transcending exclusivist or fanatic attitudes, with the view to creating a climate conducive to dialogue which would lead to solutions that uphold human dignity and integrity.

Among the theological issues discussed were methods of applying theology to particular situations of political conflict. Spirituality, as the link between long-term hope and day-to-day life also figured prominently in the discussions, as did the search for a more authentic understanding of the human person, and the

need to reflect theologically on the question of State and society.

In the particular situations of conflict discussed during the consultation, namely the Middle East (including Palestine-Israel, Lebanon, Cyprus, and Sudan), Ireland, and South Africa, the following issues were underlined:

In regard to Palestine/Israel, expectations for peace are faced with new deplorable obstacles. These are related to the shift in Israel toward more intransigence, and the decisions taken by the U.S. administration regarding Jerusalem as well as the failure of the process that was bringing Israelis and Palestinians to a table of negotiations. It is feared that this new situation will give room to self-asserting forces of division to grow at the expense of the rights of the other and, therefore, of the forces for peace among all the peoples of the Holy Land, which seek to transcend ethnic and religious boundaries.

Instead of providing justification for division, religion should manifest the fundamental requirements of faith that call for the unity of humanity and creation, drawing on the common spiritual heritage of all people and religious communities. It was felt that constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion were urgently called for. The Sudanese situation is further complicated by a long-standing intermittent civil war situation which is causing the Sudanese people enormous suffering and has brought about refugees, internal displacement, hunger and starvation. Historical grievances with certain ethnic and religious groups against others also tend to exacerbate the struggle. International aid, understanding and solidarity have become essential elements in solving the conflict and healing differences.

In regard to Northern Ireland, the Irish participants stressed that they benefitted enormously from measuring their experiences and context against other situations of conflict, learning both from similarities and differences.

They were struck by the immense suffering as society disintegrates into sectarian groups in Lebanon, and gained a heightened sense of the value of the many Northern Irish initiatives to build new social and religious relationships.

The energy of the struggle for

## Superpower thaw not reflected in Mideast

(Continued from page 1)

Not only will this new immigration exact a price by threatening all peace initiatives, but the cost to Israel economically is staggering. The Shamir Government has asked the United States, for instance, for at least \$300 million to meet the expenditures of settling Soviet newcomers in Israel.

The traditional supporters of Israel around the world have "bought" the distraction of Soviet immigration. There is pressure in the United States Congress to raise funds for the resettlement of Soviet Jews, yet there is pressure on the Bush Administration from Congress to pursue the peace process in the Middle East with greater dedication and commitment. The United States has abolished trade — restricting legislation with the Soviet bloc in order to facilitate Jewish immigration to Israel.

Israel receives \$5 billion annually from donors, but it seems that in 1990 Israel has reached a point where even the \$5 billion annual subsidy is no longer sufficient for maintaining and perpetuating its political and economic stance.

It is impossible to overlook the possibility that a sophisticated Israeli plan may be in the making to convert the issues of Soviet Jews and the intifada into a financial lifeline — indeed, even a financial lifeline — for the Israeli government. Clearly, pursuing futile and unworkable economic policies is leading Israel into disaster. After lowering the budget deficit from 30 per cent to 11 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) between 1985 and 1988, Israel's deficit rose in 1989 to nearly 40 per cent of GDP.

Israel's traditional supporters are growing restless with an Israel that remains impulsive in the face of peace efforts by the other parties. In order to stoke enthusiasm for its cause, the American Jewish Committee and the American-Israel Political Action Committee issued papers presenting the Arab view of the Middle East. However, in order to portray Arab protest against Soviet immigration as a continuation of the attempt to destroy Israel, they have to reach back as far as the 1930's to find documentation that reinforces their position. Changes in Arab attitudes since then are not considered.

I feel emboldened to suggest that it might be truly worth Israel's while to "strike while the iron is hot" — which is to say that there is an unprecedented opportunity today for the Israelis to arrive at accommodation

with their neighbours, and to seriously tackle the festering issues that have haunted our region for what seems like an eternity. Jordan, like other fair-minded Arab states, stands ready to seize the opportunity in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill.

The four principles that constitute the basis of American policy in the Middle East are: (1) that the peace settlement will be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; (2) that occupied land will be exchanged by a refusal to accept the exchange of land for peace — the only acceptable basis for a just and lasting settlement; (3) that the security of all states in the region will be guaranteed; (4) that the political rights of the Palestinian people will be recognized.

While the two superpowers must assume greater responsibility in expediting the peace process, Jordan has also advocated the concept of greater regional and inter-regional economic cooperation. Such cooperation would provide political stability and also enhance the peace consti-

tency in the Arab World.

To provide safeguards against a breakdown of the peace process, the development of a sophisticated long-term strategy is required. Like all other conflicts, the Palestine question has shown in the last few months that it is susceptible to compromise.

The United States, the Soviet Union, Europe and the parties concerned in the dispute must work in concert to generate peace momentum.

These countries should combine their expertise, wisdom and influence to chart a fresh course for peace, economic development and regional integration in the Middle East.

Confronted by growing Palestinian moderation, Israel has been engaged in an energetic attempt to frustrate its own proposal for elections in the occupied territories.

After months of persuasions the United States Secretary of State, and also enhance the peace consti-



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## Third World calls for debt strategy overhaul

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Third World nations, worried their economic problems are being forgotten in the rush to aid fledgling democracies of East Europe, are calling on industrial countries to rethink their strategy for tackling the \$1.3 trillion debt crisis.

But as the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank get underway, Washington and its allies show little sign of agreeing to major new initiatives and are likely to argue that the debt strategy set in place over the past two years is generally working.

Monetary officials say developing nations, which meet on Saturday to coordinate their position ahead of talks with industrial countries Monday and Tuesday, will back their call for a more flexible debt strategy with a demand for a substantial increase in the IMF's capital.

That, they argue, is essential if the fund is to cope with the new credit demands of East Europe's ramshackle economies without siphoning away funds from the debt-laden nations in Latin America and Africa.

"This triumphant development for democracy in Eastern Europe is like man bites dog," Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley told reporters Friday. "My continuing problem of foreign exchange is just dog bites man."

"How do we get people to understand that both are important?"

"We say go to those challenges which you must, but please don't finance them by diverting resources from us. It does not have to be at our expense."

But leading industrial nations have yet to resolve a row between France and Britain over ranking in the fund and have made it clear they will not agree to a more than 50 per cent rise in its \$120 billion of subscription quotas, the pool of funds drawn on to make loans.

And on the debt strategy, U.S. officials have this week spelled out that there is little scope for more generous treatment for debtors despite growing criticism from

banks and development agencies that they believe it is inadequate.

A United Nations official warned Friday that failure to act would force Latin American countries unilaterally to halt debt payments.

"Economies cannot grow if they are having to transfer up to one-third of their domestic savings abroad," Gert Rosenthal, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, said in Caracas.

Monetary officials say the most developing nations can expect in a move backed by France is special consideration for countries which fall between the gaps in the current debt strategy, qualifying for relief neither under the "Toronto terms" agreed in 1988 or the 1989 "Brady Plan."

The Toronto terms, agreed by industrial nations at a 1988 summit, allow for relief on official loans for African countries. The Brady Plan, named after U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, calls on banks to write off a point of disregarding politics.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has estimated that by the end of 1988 private lenders had loaned \$31.5 billion to the Soviets, who are for the most part considered an excellent credit risk, prompt and scrupulous in its payment.

However, some lenders got their fingers burned when the Soviets failed to prevent the 1982 default of communist Poland's \$9 billion debt.

Critics, however, say the recent insistence on political agendas has always been subtly present.

They note, for instance, that the World Bank, where the U.S. government is the largest stockholder, has not made loans in recent years to Nicaragua or Vietnam, both politically suspect in the United States.

And World Bank President Barber Conable held up six loans for China worth \$780 million from consideration by its board a few days after Peking crushed a pro-democracy movement.

Afterward, U.S. President George Bush asked that the loans be suspended.

Conable has said that the delay was for economic reasons, but he has since resubmitted only one of the loans, worth \$60 million.

economics," according to the first of its articles of agreement.

The \$12 billion EBRD is to be organised in Paris by May 30 with 30 owners, the largest of which will be the United States. The project's openness about its political agenda represents a sharp departure from banking tradition.

The World Bank vowed in its articles of agreement not to "interfere in the political affairs of any member" or be influenced "by the political character of the member or members concerned."

The twin institutions of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund are owned by 152 communist and non-communist governments and have loaned up to \$1.319 trillion to developing countries, according to World Bank-IMF records.

Private lenders have also made a point of disregarding politics.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has estimated that by the end of 1988 private lenders had loaned \$31.5 billion to the Soviets, who are for the most part considered an excellent credit risk, prompt and scrupulous in its payment.

Nazer told Reuters in an interview that he had acted Thursday to comply with a new Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreement to cut excess output and help oil prices which have fallen by about 25 per cent since January because of a glut.

"I have already instructed our companies to implement the agreement. As soon as those instructions reach the market, I am sure that the market will turn around," Nazer said.

Prices had dropped by around a dollar per barrel after the agreement by OPEC on what traders said was scepticism about whether the 13 members will really stop overproducing.

"Saudi Arabia will not produce any single barrel above its quota," Nazer said.

He said he was puzzled by the negative market reaction to the OPEC accord which, other delegates said, aimed to cut the group's total output by about six per cent.

"I do not understand the negative reaction of the market," Nazer said.

"There is more than 1.4 million barrels a day that were pledged to be cut from actual production which was estimated to be 23.5 million barrels a day."

"And as far as Saudi Arabia is concerned, it would implement the agreement," he said.

"You know that the market, before we came here, estimated the cut needed at between 700,000 and one million barrels a day."

"We cut more than that. We cut 1.4 million barrels a day plus. So I do not think some analysts or traders, who want to manipulate those figures for their own sake, should now sit down and claim that the cut should be bigger than that."

OPEC delegates said Nazer helped in efforts to persuade Saudi allies Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to join his country in promising to cut excess output.

Other delegations alleged that the Gulf trio were the leading over-producers.

Nazer would not be drawn on the scale of the Saudi output cut, simply saying he would pull back to the kingdom's OPEC-assigned quota of 5.38 million barrels daily.

OPEC officials had earlier referred reporters to published estimates of the group's April production which put Saudi Arabia around 5.81 million.

Nazer was asked if he knew of other producers had already given instructions for cutbacks.

"I don't know if they instructed, but I have no reason to doubt their word."

The UAE says it is cutting by 200,000 barrels a day from 2.1 million. Kuwait said it will return to its quota of 1.5 million from estimated levels around 1.9 million.

The Gulf states are said by other OPEC countries to want higher quota allocations in future.

Nazer was asked if this would be resolved when OPEC meets next, at the end of July.

"I don't know about the scope of time," he said. "But we are definitely working for a solution of the various needs of the countries, especially those who need to bridge the gap between their capacity to produce and their production level."

Some discount house officials continue the daily rite of donning silk top hats to visit the Bank of England or other financial institutions, and the bowler-hatted businessman with his furled umbrella, although a dying breed, can still be spotted among young men in designer suits in the city of London.

Hard to cash

Although a multi-millionaire on paper, Wednesday's attacker would find it virtually impossible to cash his certificates, technically the biggest robbery haul in British criminal history, after the central bank tip-off.

The briefcase will probably be worth more to him than its contents, said one London bond dealer.

An army of foot messengers take about £30 billion pounds (\$50 billion) worth of financial certificates across the square mile of the city every day, a

sum equivalent to twice Britain's expected trade deficit this year.

The messenger system is as old as the finance district itself, where dealers first congregated in coffee shops and later financial institutions and brokerages were built close together to allow documents to be delivered quickly by hand.

"It hasn't changed much over the years," said one money market source. "But I think I spotted a woman messenger once."

The Bank of England, admitting that the system is out of place in modern high-speed markets, is to introduce a computerised settlement service for the British money market later this year which would see the end of delivery on foot.

"We were concerned about the messenger system looking rather Dickensian in the modern money markets," a spokesman for the central bank said May 3.

The 100 or so messengers, working for institutions known as discount houses which buy and sell the negotiable securities, are easy for would-be attackers to spot as they wear suits with their employer's name emblazoned on the lapel.

But money market sources said the old system, although seemingly antiquated and vulnerable to street crime, remained efficient and relatively

safe.

"In practice they (the bonds) are mainly traded between banks and a few money firms. It would not be that easy for anyone to walk off the street (with bonds) and exit with a sack full of cash," said one city analyst.

In January, a city worker was rewarded with a magnum of champagne after handing in £4 million pounds (£6.6 million) worth of bonds he found in a gutter outside the London stock exchange.

The new paperless settlement system, to be called the central money markets office, will be run by the bank and participants will be charged for the service.

It is being designed to handle a higher volume of transactions than its predecessor and to help London in its bid to become the leading financial centre in the single European market after 1992.

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Some discount house officials continue the daily rite of donning silk top hats to visit the Bank of England or other financial institutions, and the bowler-hatted businessman with his furled umbrella, although a dying breed, can still be spotted among young men in designer suits in the city of London.

A senior Kuwaiti official said in remarks published Saturday his country would cut oil output this month to return to its quota of 1.5 million barrels a day.



## Nazer predicts rebound in oil prices

GENEVA (R) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Friday he had ordered an immediate cut in production by the world's biggest exporter and he expected petroleum prices to rebound.

Nazer told Reuters in an interview that he had acted Thursday to comply with a new Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreement to cut excess output and help oil prices which have fallen by about 25 per cent since January because of a glut.

"The most important thing is we've avoided a long strike," said a haggard looking Dieter Hundt, head of the employers' federation in northern Wurttemberg-Baden District.

IG Metall launched three unofficial strikes this week against West Germany's key engineering, steel and car sectors and planned to decide next Tuesday whether to ballot members on full strike action.

Friday's deal by regional representatives in the southern West German town of Goettingen was a breakthrough which was expected to set the guidelines for a nationwide agreement.

It must still be approved by national management and union executives but IG Metall Chairman Franz Steinmeier told reporters he would recommend it to other regions once the fine print is place.

Prices had dropped by around a dollar per barrel after the agreement by OPEC on what traders said was scepticism about whether the 13 members will really stop overproducing.

Saudi Arabia will not produce any single barrel above its quota," Nazer said.

He said he was puzzled by the negative market reaction to the OPEC accord which, other delegates said, aimed to cut the group's total output by about six per cent.

"I found a lovely scenic place for a picnic — the lingerie department at Renee's Boutique!"

## Deal saves W. Germany from crippling strikes

BONN (R) — West German industry was spared a crippling bout of strikes when management and a branch of the Western world's biggest trade union emerged from all-night negotiations Friday with a new deal on pay and work hours.

The deal was welcomed by a surge on the Frankfurt share market as dealers said it lifted a potentially damaging threat from Europe's biggest economy.

But federal government officials and independent economists cautioned that the package had drawbacks, particularly for efforts to smooth the way towards German unification.

After 19 hours of talks, officials of the IG Metall Union accepted a six per cent pay rise and agreed to a delay in the introduction of a 35-hour week until 1995.

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"I found a lovely scenic place for a picnic — the lingerie department at Renee's Boutique!"

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 6, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Sideways movements who could take you to task for some family infighting, then later all can be smoothed out to everyone's satisfaction.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Be open to reach a new agreement with a determined associate, while in the evening study your phrase of whatever demand your situation.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Use the early morning to get your charm and appearance heightened and then go forth into solving whatever personal problems now face you.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Make a special point early to accept opportunity to cheer one who is having a difficult time, then you can get into confidential business.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 21) An acquaintance can be a pain in the neck in the morning so ignore this individual but later you find good friends come forward to aid progress.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Start your day right by letting an influential person know you value your association, then you will be able to do those things that produce good results.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Don't be taken in later in the day by some glittering new promises after a morning when you see better ways to make your main venture work well.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you have in mind to add more charm to your dwelling is excellent then you can get details of finding specific articles to do this.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Get busy early with appointments of a business or other nature for later there can be obstacles in the way that makes it difficult to carry through.

**TODAY'S CHILD:** If your child were born today she or he will have many chances to make a lot of headway in life.

## Kaifu cuts Jakarta aid

JAKARTA (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Saturday cut this year's pledge of aid to Jakarta by 14 per cent from last year because of dramatic growth in the Indonesian economy, Japanese officials said.

Japan is Indonesia's largest aid donor, trading partner and investor by far. In the fiscal year to March 31, 1990, Japan's contribution of \$2.11 billion accounted for 42 per cent of Jakarta's total international aid income.

In a meeting with President Subarto, Kaifu promised \$1.7 billion in soft loans and government bank credits. He said he expected additional grants to equal last year's \$110 million, bringing the total package of 1.81 billion.

Another official said Japanese private sector investment was an extent replacing aid in importance in the Indonesian economy.

A quarter of all approved foreign investment in Indonesia is from Japan. In calendar 1989, Japanese companies committed investments of \$769 million. Next came South Korea with \$466 million.

Nearly 40 per cent of Indonesia's export earnings go to pay off previous loans, and Jakarta, which by law has to balance its budget, uses new aid to fund most of its development projects.

A senior Japanese foreign ministry official said the reduction in aid to Jakarta reflected Indonesia's success in revamping its economy, pushing manufactured exports into the place of volatile oil and natural gas on overseas markets.

"Our policy, as always, is to give aid where it is needed most," the official said. "Indonesia's economy is growing at a very impressive rate, so aid needs are reduced."

Indonesia's export-led industrial sector is expected to grow 8.5 per cent a year during the five year plan ending in 199

# Sports



**AWARDS:** Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday distributed prizes to winners of the Tsi Al Ruman Hill-climb speed test which ended Friday. Participant Mohammad Al Seikh won the race recording 4:11 minutes, followed by Hashim Mufri in second place and George Khayyat in third. Veteran race driver Jack Khayyat was awarded a special prize for his contribution to the sport (Petra)

## AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Results of baseball games played on Friday, May 4, 1990

### COACH-PITCH DIVISION:

Epsom 11	Concent 8
Intercontinental 9	National Steel Industry 7
Araxan 10	Pirelli 9
Arab Finance Corp. 16	ACI 10

### KID-PITCH DIVISION:

Jordan Worsted Mills 11	Westinghouse 10
NECC 15	Marriott 4
Danish Dairy 12	Mr. Chips 11*

\*(one more inning remains to be played in this game)

### SOFTBALL DIVISION:

Oddoumi Agricultural 9	Volvo 4
Second Time Around 6	NADAS 2

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
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### PLAY OR DEFEND?

North-South: vulnerable. East as a distributional takeout and succeeded only in getting East to double four hearts.

**NORTH**  
♦ A K Q 7 5  
○ 8 6  
♦ K 4  
♦ Q J 10 5  
WEST EAST  
♦ J 9 8 4 ♦ 5 3  
○ Void ○ A 17 4  
♦ 8 7 3 2 ♦ 10 9 5  
♦ A K 7 4 2 ♦ 8 6 3  
**SOUTH**  
♦ 10 2  
○ Q 10 9 5 3 2  
○ 8 7 6 5  
○ 9 3

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 2 Pass 2 NT  
Pass 3 0 3 NT Pass  
Pass 4 7 Pass Pass  
Dbl Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: King of ♦  
Study this hand from the recent Fall North American Championships, then decide whether you would rather play or defend four hearts doubled.

South's opening bid was weak; North's response was forcing, and South showed a diamond feature. West's three no trump was intended

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### RAINBOW

**Mel Gibson**  
**Michelle Pfeiffer**  
**In**  
**TEQUILA**  
**SUNRISE**

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

### CONCORD

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

### TAIPAN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

## Salsabil wins 1000 Guineas

**NEWMARKET**, England (R) — Veteran jockey Willie Carson captured the only English horse racing classic to elude him when partnering 6-4 favourite Salsabil to a three-quarters of a length success in the 1,000 Guineas Thursday.

Carson, 47, has 13 other English classics to his credit, including last year's Epsom Derby and 2,000 Guineas on Nashwan.

Salsabil, trained by John Dunlop and, like Nashwan, owned by Hamdan Al Maktoum, fought a fierce battle before mastering Heart of Joy (4-1), the mount of Walter Swinburn.

The pair drew clear in the final furlong (200 metres) of the one-mile (1.6-km) races and finished five lengths clear of third-placed Negligent (11-2), ridden by champion jockey Pat Eddery.

Heart of Joy, trained by Michael Staute, appeared to be going best of all as the 10 fillies approached the final quarter of the race, until Carson produced Salsabil on the outside.

The pair slugged it out neck and neck, with Heart of Joy just appearing to hold the edge.

But in the final 100 metres the game Salsabil got her head in front and held on well.

Trainer Dunlop will wait before deciding whether Salsabil attempts the Oaks, run over 12 furlongs (2.4 km) at Epsom on June 9.

He said: "The ground was a bit firm for her and the runner-up is probably a very good filly in her own right. I was worried about a

100 yards before the line, but this filly really tried and Willie gave her a lovely ride."

Bookmakers offer Salsabil at 5-2 for the Oaks, but Dunlop warned: "There must be a doubt about her getting the one and a half miles and we will not make up our minds for a week or so as to whether she runs."

Carson said: "Salsabil is a very good filly and won on ground not ideal for her. She had to dig deep into her reserves. I picked the right one to follow in Walter (Swinburn). They were always going better than my mount — until the last half furlong."

Trainer Barry Hills was delighted with Negligent's performance. "Pat Eddery said on dismounting that he thought she would have a good chance in the Oaks."

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Cinema

Tel: 634144

### PHILADELPHIA



### Hangmen

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

### English soccer:

## Luton barely avoids relegation

LONDON (AP) — Kingsley Black scored with 16 minutes remaining to give Luton a 3-2 victory at Derby Saturday that allowed Luton to avoid relegation to the second division of the English Soccer League. Sheffield Wednesday will be relegated instead.

The final Saturday of the league season was marred by fan violence in several parts of the country that resulted in dozens of arrests and injuries. The worst violence was in Bournemouth, where fans clashed with police clad in riot gear.

Charlton and Millwall earlier had been assured of relegation from the first division. Leeds and Sheffield United will be promoted from the second division, as well as a third team to be determined by a four-club playoff.

Liverpool, which clinched its

record 18th league title a week ago, finished its season with a 6-1 outburst at Coventry that included three goals by John Barnes and a pair by striker Romany Rosenthal.

The three goals allowed Barnes to capture the division one scoring title with 28 goals. His teammate Ian Rush, scored once Saturday to finish in a tie for second place with Tottenham's Gary Lineker with 26 goals apiece.

In other first-division games, second-place Aston Villa managed a 3-3 tie at Everton, third-

place Tottenham won 2-1 at home against Southampton and Arsenal finished in fourth place after a 2-2 tie at Norwich.

Also, Crystal Palace tied visiting Manchester City 2-2, Manchester United won 1-0 at home against Charlton, visiting Chelsea defeated Millwall 3-1 and Wimbledon won 3-2 at Queens Park Rangers.

Leeds clinched the second-division title with a 1-0 victory at Bournemouth that was marred by fan violence before and after the contest.

### Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians

Medical Aid for Palestinians Walk - Jordan at 11/5/1990

For Walkers and non Walkers

For the whole Family  
Come and spend Friday at "Souk Baladi" Kherbat Abu Jaber / Al-Yadudah.

From 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- \* Free Entrance
- \* Light Lunch outdoors
- \* Enjoy the wide range of the traditional products of our country, & have lots more fun & entertainment come & meet our famous Jordanian actors.
- \* Shop from our big varieties of Specially homemade food.

For more information please call 611065  
Riyadh Centre 2nd floor.

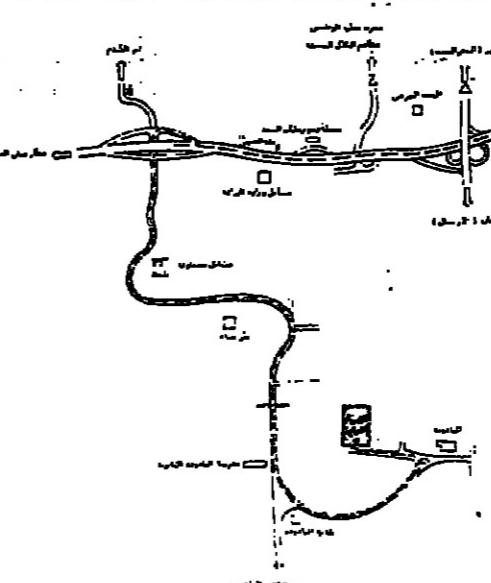
### Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians

Medical Aid for Palestinians Walk - Jordan at 11/5/1990

#### NOTES ON SPONSOR FORMS

##### Date, time and venue

The walk will start at the Intercontinental Hotel at 8:30 a.m. on Friday 11th May 1990 and will follow the route outlined in the enclosed map. Participants are requested to arrive not later than 7:45 a.m. It will end at Kherbat Abu Jaber.



##### Stations

The Walk will be divided into substages (stations) 2 km. apart. Participants collect a card at the Intercontinental Hotel and have a new card at each station. The final (11th) station will be at the Kherbat Abu Jaber.

##### How much should one walk

One can walk as he/she wants, but the minimum valid distance is 2 km. i.e. one should get at least the first card.

##### Food & drinks

Participants with sponsor forms receipt holders will be provided with food and drinks free of charge along the route at every station.

For more information please call 611065  
Riyadh Centre 2nd floor.

Cinema Tel: 625155

### RAINBOW

**Mel Gibson**  
**Michelle Pfeiffer**  
**In**  
**TEQUILA**  
**SUNRISE**

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

Tel: 677420

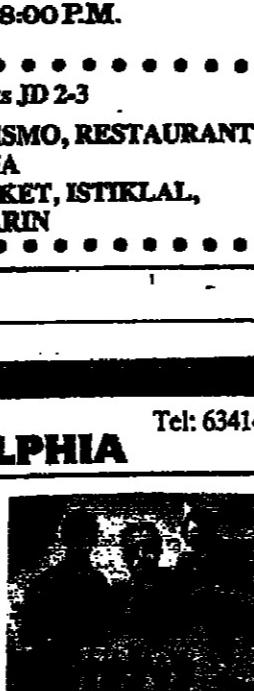
### CONCORD

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

Tel: 634144

### PHILADELPHIA



### Hangmen

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

Tel: 675571

### NIJOM

Tel: 675571

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Hamadi the Great  
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### PLAZA

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Harrison Ford  
In

INDIANA  
JONES

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

## Bush against ban on nuclear arms in Europe

**STILLWATER, Oklahoma (R)** — President George Bush has proclaimed the dawn of a new "age of freedom" that makes nuclear weapons less vital in Europe but said the United States opposed eliminating NATO's nuclear arsenal entirely.

"The United States is not going to allow Europe to become 'safe' for conventional war." There are few lessons so clear in history as this: Only the combination of conventional forces and nuclear forces have ensured peace in Europe," he said.

In a speech to graduating students at Oklahoma State University, Bush elaborated on his call Thursday for a new Western strategy for Europe and his announcement that two nuclear weapons programmes were being scrapped.

"Europe, and the world, have entered a new era — the age of freedom," he said in his prepared remarks, referring to the crumbling of Communist rule in Eastern Europe and dramatic political change in the Soviet Union.

Bush said that "in light of these new political conditions, and the limited range and flexibility of short-range nuclear missile forces based in Europe" he was abandoning plans to build a replacement for NATO's ageing Lance missile and to modernise nuclear artillery shells.

The range of these weapons, which are based mainly in West Germany, limits them to targets in East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia — countries no longer part of the Soviet Bloc.

Bush reaffirmed his readiness to begin negotiations with the Soviet Union to reduce or eliminate short-range land-based nuclear weapons in Europe even before a treaty trimming conventional forces is implemented.

But U.S. officials said Washington wants to build a consensus within NATO for deployment of a more modern nuclear weapons system — the so-called TASM, an acronym for tactical air-to-surface missile.

"Even as NATO gives more emphasis to its political mission, its guarantee of European security must remain firm," Bush said.

## Croatian Communists all but concede poll defeat

**ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R)** — Ruling Communists in Croatia, Yugoslavia's second biggest republic, have all but conceded defeat on the eve of the second round of parliamentary elections almost certain to end 45 years of Communist power.

In the first round on April 22, Communists won only 13 seats against 104 for the Croatian Democratic Union (CDU), a right-wing nationalist party, and the final result after Sunday's vote for the republic's three-chamber 356-member parliament was in little doubt.

Only candidates who won over 50 per cent of the vote were elected in the first round. The rest were forced into the second round where a simple majority will decide.

The CDU leads in most districts.

"The League of Communists of Croatia was in power in the first election round, but in the second round it is practically in opposition," Ivo Družić, a party leader, told a central committee meeting in Zagreb Friday.

The Communists have launched last minute attacks on the CDU, accusing it of nationalism and of stirring ethnic conflicts to win more votes.

But between the two election rounds they have in fact drawn closer to the CDU position that the republics should have full autonomy and the right to secede from the Yugoslav federation.

The CDU, headed by former army General Franjo Tuđman, has demanded that the federation of six republics and two autono-

mous provinces be transformed into a loose confederation.

Tuđman has said Croatia, a perennial arch-rival of the biggest republic Serbia, would secede from Yugoslavia if its interests were not fully served within it.

The Croatian people can choose a retrograde programme of national euphoria, but must be aware that it comes across as an anachronism in modern Europe," said Ivica Racan, the Croatian reformist Communist Party president.

The Croatian and Slovenian Communists split from the once monolithic federal party after a stormy congress last January but ruled out acting as much more than a host for fresh peace talks.

Japanese Prime Minister

## Japan wants to help end war in Cambodia

**JAKARTA (R)** — Japan said Saturday it wanted to help end 11 years of civil war in Cambodia but ruled out acting as much more than a host for fresh peace talks.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, nearing the end of a five-nation Asian tour, said Tokyo would host talks between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, nominal leader of the three-party guerrilla coalition.

The meeting, initially proposed by Thailand, would follow preparatory talks in Bangkok by the end of May.

"Japan wishes to moderate as actively as possible," Kaifu told reporters. "If a meeting could be arranged [between Sihanouk and Hun Sen], Japan will take whatever measures necessary to ensure its success."

Kaifu would not give a timetable for the Tokyo talks but officials in Bangkok have said they were scheduled for the first week in June.

"It's not a question of who will meet or when they will meet but rather that we cooperate together and I for one have a strong desire to do so."

A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Tokyo would only provide a site for the meeting.

"We cannot get involved in the internal politics of Cambodia," he said after Kaifu met Indonesian President Suharto, whose country has hosted several failed peace talks between the warring Cambodian factions.

Meanwhile thousands of refugees have fled recent fighting between guerrillas and government forces in northwestern Cambodia, relief officials said Saturday.

More than 10,000 Cambodians arrived at guerrilla-controlled refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border during April, said officials in the Thai frontier town of Aranyaprathet. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

A smaller group of armed men entered the building, ordered everyone out, and asked to speak with regional party officials, presenting them with a list of demands, said Gevorg Oganesyan, a spokesman for the regional party Central Committee.

Col. Grant Avakyan of the Armenian Interior Ministry said the men left the building after the negotiations with the party and the local police, but did not surrender their weapons. He said the incident lasted about six hours.

The men also demanded that Soviet troops withdraw from the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian region located within the republic of Azerbaijan, said Dela Avetisyan, duty officer of the Armenian news agency in Yerevan.

Riots and attacks against KGB, government and party buildings have become part of a recurring pattern of anti-Soviet acts in various parts of the southern Soviet Union in the past year. Some of the attacks are aimed clearly at taking arms from police and KGB stocks, and others have been to force political change.

## Britain, France announce defence cooperation

**WADDESDON, England (AP)** — Britain and France, which have jealously guarded the independence of their nuclear forces, have announced they will forge closer links in security and defence matters.

Bush said a NATO summit

expected to take place in London in mid or late June should have a four-point agenda:

- German unification and other political issues;
- alliance goals for reducing conventional weapons;
- the role of nuclear arms in Europe and nuclear arms control goals; and

— allied objectives for the 35th conference on security and cooperation in Europe, at which both East and West are represented.

While striking a generally upbeat tone about what the future holds, Bush cautioned that the changes sweeping the Soviet Union are not yet fully clear.

Thatcher, who had favoured a new Lance missile, said the decision made by U.S. President George Bush increased the importance of modernising the present "free-falling nuclear bombs... to a missile from air-to-ground."

Mitterrand endorsed Bush's decision on the Lance, "which is the position I had in fact called for myself in 1988." He said France wants to link modernisation or reductions in nuclear weapons to concrete results from Vienna talks on reducing conventional forces.

"Both of us as independent nuclear deterrent powers — the only two in Europe... we feel we should cooperate more closely on security and defence matters," Thatcher said.

"We have asked our foreign and defence ministers to supervise a programme of enhanced cooperation on these issues with particular emphasis on future security arrangements in Europe," she said.

"No field is precluded from such cooperation," said Mitterrand. "Let's move forward. We will not overnight achieve coordination as complete and as full as I would wish, but we will move forward."

Britain and France have not included their nuclear arsenals in the superpower arms reduction talks. Both countries maintain they need nuclear weapons as an essential minimal deterrent, and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in recent years has not pressed the issue.

Thatcher said her talks with Mitterrand focused on the situation in the Soviet Union and East-West relations.

Mitterrand told reporters he shares Bush's fears for the stability of the Soviet government, saying he detects "certain elements of fragility, things that could become dangerous."

Bush told reporters Thursday that he sometimes worries about Gorbachev's staying power and the possibility of a "takeover that will set back the whole process of reform in the Soviet Union."

But Mitterrand said: "We aren't gambling on his failure... the hypothesis that we're definitely working on is the continuation of the renovation process that we very much hope for, and that we hope will succeed."

Thatcher avoided direct comment on Bush's fears.

"President Gorbachev has done wonders. He has brought about a complete transformation in East-West relations and I think he has been the first person to have the courage to see that the Communist system would not work for the Soviet Union," she said.

Shevardnadze was concilia-

## Contras agree to begin disarming

**MANAGUA (Agencies)** — Contra rebel leaders signed an accord Saturday with Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro in which they agreed to begin handing over their weapons to United Nations forces Tuesday.

The accord, read to a news conference by Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, was signed after 16 hours of negotiations over contra demands that the new government give them economic help and guarantee their personal security once they lay down their arms.

"There is now a fixed date and we are disposed to comply," rebel military leader Israel Galeano said.

The U.S.-backed rebels fought for eight years against the country's leftist Sandinista government which lost to Chamorro in February elections.

In an agreement signed last month, the contras said they would begin disarming on April 25 — Chamorro's inauguration date — and end the process by June 10. But the disarmament was stalled because of the rebels' security concerns.

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar sharply criticised the rebels

Thursday for not beginning to disarm on time.

Saturday's accord restated the previous agreement that rebels grouped in five internationally supervised security zones inside Nicaragua be fully disarmed by June 10.

An Organisation of American States (OAS) official at the talks said more than 9,000 rebels are now in the zones with more expected to arrive soon.

In return for the contra agree-

ment to begin the disarmament,



Violeta Chamorro

Chamorro agreed to guarantee the physical security of the contra fighters and their families, pulling all government troops out of the security zones and disarming all civilians there.

The government also agreed to announce on June 10 a programme for the reduction of the country's armed forces, a promise Chamorro made during her electoral campaign.

Once the contras are disarmed the government will give legal recognition to any political group the former rebels might form, the accord said.

Asked if the contras would form a political party, Galeano said only: "Everything is possible in life."

The government will also set aside settlement areas for the former rebels where they and their families will be provided housing and other economic assistance, the accord added.

The role of the military in Nicaragua's new government will diminish "little by little and as soon as possible," Chamorro said Friday.

She made her remarks as she began closed talks with the contra rebel movement.

Contra commander Franklin said the fact that the contras are meeting with Chamorro shows a willingness to unite to work to rebuild "a society that is destroyed."

"I like what Commander Franklin said because what we want is to rebuild our country in peace, in reconciliation and also to demilitarise our country," Chamorro said.

Franklin, who commanded some 12,000 rebel troops, arrived Thursday from Nicaragua's northern mountains and said his delegation was in the capital: "To find the fastest solution to the situation."

Many contras are especially angry over Chamorro's decision to keep Gen. Humberto Ortega as temporary head of the army.

Contra negotiator Commander Oscar "Ruben" Solórzano on April 19 signed a ceasefire agreement with the Sandinista People's Army and another pact with Chamorro's government to demobilise and disarm by June 10.

Aristides Sanchez, director of the contras, said Thursday that the agreements do not mention reducing the Nicaraguan military, estimated to number some 300,000, although it does speak of "guarantees."

"The reduction and disarming of the army is one of those guarantees," he said.

When Chamorro took office April 15 she charted Gen. Ortega with "formulating a programme to bring about a reduction of the armed forces."

She said Ortega would stay on as head of the army until the contras were disarmed.

## Column 8

### Stars gather for Lennon memorial concert

**LIVERPOOL, England (AP)** — International pop stars have gathered in John Lennon's hometown of Liverpool to rehearse the Beatles songs they will perform at a memorial concert for the slain star.

Kylie Minogue, Wet Wet Wet and Terence Trent d'Arby joined 1960s and 1970s rockers including Joe Cocker and the Moody Blues in a Saturday con-

cert that will be televised in Britain. The programme will be broadcast around the world in October as part of a 50th birthday tribute to Lennon. Lennon was shot to death in New York City on Dec. 8, 1980, when he was 40 years old. The confessed killer, Mark Chapman, is serving a life prison sentence. Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, and their son Sean arrived in Britain Thursday night.

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## Oldest iceberg breaking up

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A 12-year odyssey is coming to an end for the oldest known drifting iceberg which has started to break up in the South Atlantic. The iceberg which once covered over 136 square miles (216 square kilometres), was first sighted in 1978. Since then it has drifted some 5,700 miles (9,170 kilometres), almost entirely around Antarctica, according to the Joint Ice Centre operated by the navy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-

tration. The iceberg was last sighted southwest of the Falkland Islands in February, according to Navy Capt. Tom Callahan. He said satellite studies show that the berg is now breaking up in a region known as the "screaming fifties".

**TV commercial scares child into constipation**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A Springfield, Illinois, pediatrician reports in a medical journal that one of his patients was scared into constipation by a television commercial that showed a toilet turning into a biting monster.

Final decisions were not expected from the meeting, held just 3 1/2 weeks before the start of the U.S.-Soviet summit in Washington.

East Germany's Markus Meckel, a pastor and former janitor turned foreign minister, was the first to arrive in a black Mercedes-Benz.

Chatting with each other, the men stood in a row and posed for photographs, with Baker and Shevardnadze constantly side by side.

Baker and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd tried to ease the Soviet fears, said a British official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

He quoted Hurd as saying, "We are seeing a changing Nato. We are moving away from the vocabulary of the cold war."

"We have difficult problems to solve," Genscher said in his opening remarks after they had sat down at a round table inside the foreign ministry's main conference room.

**Robot helps doctors implant hip joint in dog**

**SAN FRANCISCO (R)** — Medical researchers have used a robotic arm similar to those that assemble cars and television sets to help implant an artificial joint in a dog. The researchers said they may be able to introduce the technique to hip replacements in humans in about one year, and that robots could replace the use of many hand-held surgical tools in 10 to 15 years. The surgery on a 10-year-old Australian shepherd-dog named Snook, was performed at a veterinary clinic in Sacramento. The doctors who invented what they call "robotic" said the dog was doing "great." Once perfected, the use of surgical robots is expected to give doctors a greater degree of accuracy in performing surgery.

Leipzig is among several cities where environmental concerns compete with the fear of lost jobs. The heavily industrial city is among the most polluted in the world, and many of its arachnid factories are likely to be closed.

And in a true precursor to a united Germany, the Social Democrat candidate for mayor of Leipzig, Heinrich-Lohman, Gruber, has been allowed to run — even though he is a city council member in the West German city of Hanover.

## E. Germans poised to sweep out remaining Communists

**EAST BERLIN (R)** — East Germans vote Sunday in local elections that likely will remove the vestiges of Communist control and virtually complete the revolution that began a year ago.

While the elected leaders may change, Vogel said many of the bureaucrats running the various city departments may be retained. Many cannot